

Parrott's  
ambitions  
extinguished  
by Lawler

# THE TIMES

30

No. 65,562

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

## ONLY IN THE TIMES

THE COMPLETE LIST OF  
FLORA LONDON MARATHON  
RUNNERS COATNUSS...

10 PAGES  
46 & 47

## THE BARD UNMASKED

Did cancer  
kill William  
Shakespeare?  
PAGE 11  
Leader  
PAGE 19

## RETURN OF THE MAXI

The long  
skirt  
is back  
FASHION  
PAGE 16

## INTERFACE

HOW HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
WILL STOP  
ANOTHER  
CHERNOBYL  
PLUS: A CHANCE TO WIN  
A 699 FAX MACHINE

## CLASS WAR ON THE MENU

Nigella Lawson  
on fads  
in the food  
world  
PAGE 17

## Head gives warning on two-year-olds being sent to school



By JOHN O'LEARY  
AND DAVID CHARTER

MANY parents are treating their children "like young animals," sending them to nursery schools while they are still in nappies, the head of an independent schools association said yesterday.

Record numbers of two-year-olds are going to school and Paddy Holmes said she feared for the future as many children stayed with their mothers only while they were biologically dependent on them.

Mrs Holmes, chairman of the Independent Schools Association In-

corporated, was speaking at a press conference to announce the first rise in the number of privately educated pupils for five years — an increase almost entirely due to the number of two- and three-year-olds at school.

The Independent Schools Information Service disclosed that 4,584 two-year-olds attended private schools last year — 27 per cent more than in 1994 and the biggest increase for any age group. Another 11,500 children aged three produced a 7.4 per cent increase in pre-school enrolments.

Mrs Holmes, headmistress of Ditcham Park School in Petersfield, Hampshire, said the sector was

responding to parental demand, but she harboured grave doubts about the age at which some children are enrolled. "We are really beginning as a nation to produce children treated in many ways more like young animals, staying with their mothers only as long as they are biologically dependent," she said. "Some children even in nappies are now going to school and losing that bond because both parents are working."

Mrs Holmes said the trend resulted from the pressures on mothers to hold down a career, and she sympathised with parents. "For some, a prep school is the only alternative to a

nanny," she said. "It works well socially and it works well educationally. But we may live to reap the dividends in social terms of children separated from their parents from the age of two."

A growing number of preparatory schools now have nursery departments taking two-year-olds. Some also have creches for even younger children.

Chris Evers, a headmaster who chairs the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, said most young children attended nurseries only part-time. "We wouldn't be doing it if we thought we were

driving a wedge between parents and their children." His association opposed "hothousing" young children and had issued guidelines on "constructive play" for two-year-olds.

But Mrs Holmes said research had shown that lengthy separation of young children from their parents often caused psychological damage. They could experience feelings of rejection, becoming insecure and withdrawn.

Earlier this year, Tony Evans, chairman of the Headmasters' and

Continued on page 2, col 8

Isis report, page 4



## Tycoon denies rapes at castle

By KATE ALDERSON

OWEN OYSTON, the millionaire media tycoon, raped two teenage models at his 16th century castle, it was alleged yesterday.

Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC, prosecuting, told Liverpool Crown Court that the 62-year-old chairman of Blackpool Football Club and owner of a number of regional magazines and radio stations, forced one of the girls to have sex in a four poster bed, and the other to take part in a three-in-a-bed session at his home Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster.

Mrs Grindrod said the girls, then aged 16 and 17, had believed Mr Oyston could help their modelling careers, and stayed silent about their ordeal for years fearing that nobody would believe them.

Mr Oyston denies the charges.

Full report, page 3

## 66 Tories vote to cut power of EU court

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

MORE than 60 Conservative MPs showed their disdain for the European Union yesterday by supporting a backbench Bill to limit the power of the European Court of Justice in Britain.

Iain Duncan-Smith's Bill had no chance of becoming law, but it was seen as an important test of backbench opinion on Europe and it attracted the support of 66 Tories, including the former Cabinet ministers John Redwood, Norman Lamont, John Biffen and Kenneth Baker, as well as Anthony Coombs, a parliamentary aide who later apologised for his action.

Many of them later made plain that they had backed the measure to register a wider protest at recent developments in the EU, most notably the ban on British beef. They also claimed that they were acting in line with a more pronounced mood of scepticism within the country as demonstrated by the growing interest in Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which is threatening to field up to 600 candidates at the next election.

Mr Redwood will today meet Sir James to explore his plans for a referendum on all aspects of Britain's relationship with the rest of Europe and to consider whether there

are any chances of a compromise that would discourage him from fielding candidates at the election.

In the Commons, however, John Major shrugged aside any thought of a deal. Taunted by Labour backbencher Donald Anderson, who asked "what further measures of appeasement" he and Tory chairman Brian Mawhinney had in mind "to placate the patriots across the water", he replied: "The answer is quite clear — none."

New indications that the Referendum Party may target pro-European Tories in marginal seats are causing fresh alarm among Conservative MPs and Mr Redwood said last night that his objective today was to ensure that the Conservatives were the beneficiaries of the anti-federalist vote at the election. "I will tell him that splitting that vote between us and him will let in the Labour Party."

Mr Redwood and Norman Lamont had earlier stood beside Mr Duncan-Smith as he sought curbs on the European Court, saying: "We are witnessing a process of judge-made law which goes far beyond the traditional scope of the British national courts and cuts across the vital concept that law-makers should be fully accountable to their electorate. Furthermore, once it makes such a ruling, it has been decreed by the court that the relevant power is forever lost to the national government."

Mr Duncan Smith's measure was rejected by 83 votes to 77, thanks largely to opposition MPs who were joined by only five pro-European Tories.

Buying The Times overseas:  
Australia \$1.25; Canada \$1.25;  
Cuba \$1.25; Czechoslovakia \$2.25;  
Cyprus £1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00;  
Finland FM 17.00; France 10.00;  
Germany DM 1.50; Gibraltar 90p;  
Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 1.50;  
Iceland Kr 100; Ireland £1.25;  
Luxembourg L2; Malta £1.25;  
Malta £1.25; Monaco DM 2.00;  
Netherlands 50c; New Zealand \$1.25;  
Spain Pts 125; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland  
SFr 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA  
\$3.50.

The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



CHRIS HARRIS

## Thought for the Day clergy are ordered to take a rest

By RUTH GLEEDHILL AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE BBC has been accused of axing presenters on Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* to make it politically safe.

Three of the best-known contributors to its popular religious slot on *Today* are being "rested" and the decision has provoked anger.

In a letter to contributors, David Coomes, the producer, says some scripts, especially those on political issues, are too simplistic. He insists: "*Thought* should not be about government or even opposition bashing. Everybody else in *Today* does that."

Canon Philip Crowe, the former principal of Salisbury theological college, who has done more than 200 *Thought* for 20 years but is being "rested" for a year or so "to make way for new names", accused the BBC of vetting his copy to make it politically safe.

He said: "I am told that *Thought* must be less immediate, less topical. The result is that *Thought* for the Day is

becoming *Thought* for Yesterday." The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York and Dr Leslie Griffiths, former president of the Methodist Conference, have also been told that they are to be "rested".

John Humphrys, a *Today* presenter, said that rather than have a slimmer list of contributors, he would prefer to see a longer list. "I find this a rather surprising decision. With six *Thoughts* per week, 52 weeks a year, I don't know why we have to have a smaller list."

One BBC insider said that

the changes were needed because, "at times the political element in the slot is overdone and the comment is not as sophisticated as it might be."

John Humphrys, a *Today* presenter, said that rather than have a slimmer list of contributors, he would prefer to see a longer list. "I find this a rather surprising decision. With six *Thoughts* per week, 52 weeks a year, I don't know why we have to have a smaller list."

Leading article, page 19

Off the air: Dr Griffiths, Mr Austin and Canon Crowe

## Princess says surgery visit was not stunt

The Princess of Wales yesterday denied that her decision to watch a heart operation while being filmed on television was a publicity stunt.

The successful surgery on Arnold Wambo, 7, from Cameroon, was performed by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. A statement by the Princess's office made clear that she would continue to work with charities in which ever ways she chose.

Medical Briefing, page 7

## Chechen leader's death reported

Reports from Chechnya yesterday claimed that Dzhokhatur Dudayev, the rebel leader, had been killed during a Russian air attack.

Khodzhakhmed Yerishanov, a rebel commander, was quoted by the Tass news agency as saying: "Dudayev died together with several people from his close circle."

However, some figures in the Chechen leadership denied the reports.

## Top earners face extra bill for tax

By KAREN ZAGOR

TOP rate earners will pay extra tax totalling up to £1.5 billion when the new system of self assessment begins to bite next year.

Under the old regime, which was phased out earlier this month, the nine million people who file tax returns had to settle by December.

The controversial new system will oblige higher rate taxpayers, who receive extra income from savings and investments, to make two payments in January 1998. One will be retrospective for the whole of the 1996-97 tax year, while the other will be for the first half of the 1997-98 tax year. A second instalment will fall in July 1998.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat MP, has tabled a parliamentary question asking the Chancellor, "if the yield in 1997-98 from higher rate income tax charged by direct assessment on investment income received net of lower rate income tax will be higher under the new system

of self assessment; and what estimate he has made of the extent of the difference."

David Norman, personal financial services manager at KPMG in Leicester, said: "It could be a bit of a shock to some people who will effectively be paying 1½ times the amount they might expect."

The system of self assessment will affect about nine million people, including those who are self-employed, company directors and some employees with extra income, such as interest from savings accounts and other investments. Top rate tax of 40 per cent is paid by those earning in excess of £29,265.

As a result of the transitional rules some higher rate taxpayers will have to pay their whole 1996-97 liability plus the first instalment of their 1997-98 liability in January 1998. That amount will be half of the previous year's liability. Up to £1.5 billion will be levied before the end of the tax year in April.

17  
9 770140 046237  
TV & RADIO ..... 50, 51  
WEATHER ..... 26  
CROSSWORDS ..... 26, 52

LETTERS ..... 19, 31  
OBITUARIES ..... 21  
SIMON JENKINS ..... 18

ARTS ..... 42-44  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 45  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 20

SPORT ..... 45-50, 52  
FASHION ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 24

ICL that's

Every day, our systems and services help maintain and improve the performance of essential services: electricity, gas, water and telecommunications. Technology that allows us to work at a distance, bring remote and urban areas closer together and help safeguard the environment. ICL Information Technology. IT Systems and Services that support your way of life.



# Teenage models 'raped by tycoon in castle bedroom'

By KATE ALDERSON

THE multimillionaire Owen Oyston raped two teenage models after they were told he could help their careers, a court was told yesterday.

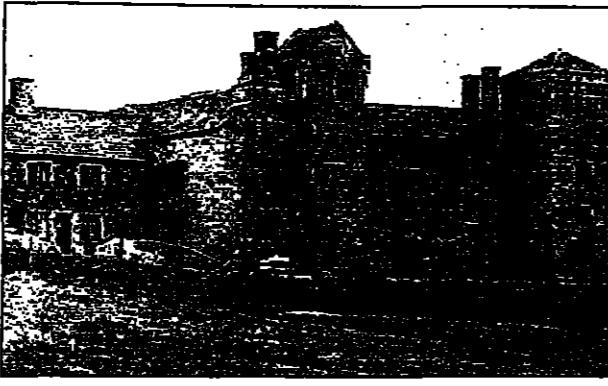
The girls, aged 16 and 17 at the time, worked for a model agency run by Mr Oyston's friend Peter Martin. They had been told Mr Oyston was a "powerful friend", Liverpool Crown Court heard. "The implication was that he would be useful to them in their hoped-for careers," Helen Grindrod, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Oyston, chairman of Blackpool Football Club and owner of regional magazines and radio stations, has denied raping one of the girls in 1989 or 1989 and raping and indecently assaulting the other in 1991.

Mrs Grindrod said Mr Martin had a house in Sale, Manchester, known as the models' house, where some of them would stay. The first alleged victim, who was a 17-year-old virgin, stayed at the house in Sale during the week because she lived some distance away and on one occasion was introduced to Mr Oyston at a restaurant.

During a meal at an hotel she was offered a life home, but Mrs Grindrod said that instead of being taken to Sale she was driven north to Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster, Mr Oyston's 16th-century castle.

When she arrived between



Cloughton Hall, the home of Owen Oyston

## Judge injured in struggle to arrest burglar

By A STAFF REPORTER

A JUDGE who tried to arrest a burglar at his local post office was hit over the head with a bottle, a jury was told yesterday.

Anthony King, 53, was attacked by Henry Earl, 33, but still tried to stop him escaping, Guildhall Crown Court was told.

The confrontation put Mr King in hospital. He said he was on his way home from an evening pantomime when he found Earl breaking into the village post office.

He told the thief he was under citizen's arrest, but Earl brandished a bottle of whisky as Mr King blocked his path.

Without warning, Mr King was smashed with "full-force" over the head, "splitting his head open".

But instead of giving up, Mr King grabbed hold of the robber and struggled, "holding on for grim death" on the pavement for nearly a minute. The "strong, athletic" robber managed to break free after slipping out of his shirt and ran off, pursued by Mr King.

But after a chase across the quiet village of Drayton, in Oxfordshire, where Mr King lives, the thief escaped. Mr King, an Oxford graduate who played rugby and football at university, sits on the Midland and Oxford circuit. He told the court: "I heard a loud banging coming from the shop and the sound of shattering glass. I saw the figure of a man climbing through the

broken glass of the door of the village shop. I ran directly up to the door of the shop and found the glass had been shattered giving access to someone to get in.

"I put my head through the door and knew there was someone in there because I could hear noises near the cash till. After a length of time I called out, 'You needn't think you are going to leave. I am going to arrest you for burglary'."

He added: "Without warning the robber brought the bottle down very forcibly in an over-arm action on my head. The effect was to split the skin open."

Earl admits burglary but denies wounding with intent, unlawful wounding and assault on September 22, 1994. The case was adjourned until today.



Judge King struck over head with whisky bottle

## Pregnant RE teacher sacked

By LIN JENKINS

A ROMAN CATHOLIC school said yesterday that it was legally entitled to dismiss a teacher after she became pregnant by the local priest.

Thomas More Upper School, in Bedford, dismissed the religious education teacher because she practised extramarital sex, placing her in a "morally impossible position", John Bowers, for the school, told an industrial tribunal in London.

Motika O'Neill, 31, is appealing against a tribunal

ruling in 1994 that she was not a victim of sex discrimination. She won an earlier claim that she was unfairly dismissed after it was found she was pregnant by Father Chris O'Neill.

The couple have since married and have three children. Mr O'Neill, who left the church after being banished to a religious retreat, and his wife sat together during the second day of the hearing.

Mr Bowers said: "It was not the pregnancy that was intolerable to the school but the obvious manifestation of ex-

tra-marital sex. It was the moral aspect of her conduct that was an issue."

He said the headmaster initially congratulated her on the pregnancy and offered to arrange married accommodation. When it became clear she did not intend to marry, it was suggested she resign. The school is saying the pregnancy was within an inappropriate relationship which made it not right for her to teach religious education."

Mr Justice Mummery said he would deliver his judgment in a fortnight.



Elizabeth Hinko says Richard Branson grabbed her



Branson sweeps up Liza Minelli at the party for his New York megastore

## Branson dismisses sex claim at opening of American store

From Quentin Letts in New York

RICHARD BRANSON floated down in a silver balloon at the front of his new shop in New York yesterday and then showed the same indifference to danger when questioned about a former employee's sexual harassment claims.

Mr Branson, head of the Virgin group, has been accused of fondling Elizabeth Hinko, a one-time public relations manager for the company. Ms Hinko said that the entrepreneur grabbed her breasts at a party at his

Oxfordshire house in 1994. So "distracted" did she become that, after being fired last summer, she "collapsed" and was admitted to hospital.

Mr Branson vigorously denies any impropriety. He said that Ms Hinko was an opportunist and noted that her harassment suit coincided with the opening of his Megastore in Times Square.

His balloon descent was a characteristic stunt though originally he had hoped to walk a tightrope across Times Square. The megastore is a bold venture, stocked with more than a million CDs,

1,000 listening booths, 21 miles of audio cable and, crucially, 45 tills.

Mr Branson said he was "100 per cent sure" he would succeed in having the suit thrown out. "She is accusing me of doing something at a party at which there were 250 people. My family was there."

Ms Hinko worked in New York for Virgin Atlantic and was fired, Mr Branson said, because she was no good at her job. Her lawyer approached Virgin with the lawsuit last month but was immediately told there would be no cash deal to settle the claim.

ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & AWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CAR SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE V DAY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURNERS & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS PLUMBERS TAKEAWAYS CON



Charities warned to beware lottery advisers

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

HOME NEWS 5

## Tory MP accuses Mirror reporters of smear story

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A TORY backbencher told the High Court yesterday that a journalist who is now Tony Blair's press secretary conducted a campaign to destroy his reputation.

Rupert Allason said that Alastair Campbell set out to damage him by publishing an article that amounted to a malicious falsehood. Mr Campbell was in charge of a team of "very experienced" political correspondents for the *Daily Mirror* who, Mr Allason said, fabricated a story suggesting that 50 MPs had signed an early day motion (EDM) in the House of Commons challenging him to give the Maxwell pensioners £250,000 — an exaggerated figure — that he had won from the newspaper in libel damages.

Mr Allason, MP for Torbay, who writes spy non-fiction under the pseudonym Nigel West, claims that it was a *Mirror* journalist who drafted the motion, canvassed support for its publication on the Labour back benches and invented the newspaper article. The article, published in

the *Mirror* in November 1992, was "very short but, remarkably, was untrue in almost every respect". Mr Allason, who is conducting his own case, told Mr Justice Drake: "Despite its gravity, this article was wrong in that there was no challenge, certainly no challenge from 50 MPs, and there had not been damages of a quarter of a million pounds.

Over a long period, Alastair Campbell has been antagonistic towards Rupert Allason

The libel damages referred to had been exaggerated by £50,000 in the article.

"There was a draft early day motion circulating in the Commons that Thursday evening but it did not come into effect until much later, on Friday morning. Thus the article was wrong in three significant respects.

"Indeed the *Mirror* jumped the gun in another very important respect. When the EDM was published the next day, it contained only seven signa-

tures, not the 50 reported by the *Mirror*.

For a backbencher to be singled out as the subject of personal criticism by so many MPs on the first day of an early day motion was "extraordinary to the point of being unprecedented". The action was designed to cause mischief and heap opprobrium on him, Mr Allason said.

that there had been a long history of animosity towards him by the *Mirror*, dating back to October 1991, when he made a public attack on the late newspaper proprietor Robert Maxwell and the *Mirror's* foreign news editor, Nicholas Davies. Maxwell issued proceedings against him and attacked him in a front-page story under the headline "Dishonourable men and dirty tricks".

The MP said that evidence of the newspaper's prejudice was contained in a letter signed by Joe Haines, a senior executive and former leader writer on the *Mirror*, in which he said: "Dear Mr Allason, I regard you with the utmost contempt. Rather than apologise to you for your wickedness, I'll see you in Hell first." Maxwell died, Mr Davies was sacked and the MP's counter-claim for libel was settled with a statement in open court. The article at the centre of the dispute was published four days later. Mr Allason complained that he had lost financially. He was negotiating a contract said to be worth \$75,000 to write the history of a New York-based security



Alastair Campbell, left, now Tony Blair's press secretary, led a malicious campaign, claims Rupert Allason



Tony Blair, right, Tony Blair's press secretary, led a malicious campaign, claims Rupert Allason

### Bupa to reward healthy lifestyle

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

BUPA is to overhaul its business strategy to fend off fierce competition in the private health care market.

Customers will be offered loyalty bonuses to spend on healthy activities such as joining fitness clubs, having medical screening or buying extra policies. Bupa said yesterday that it will also enter the long-term care market.

The company is preparing an imminent announcement by the Department of Health, which is expected to require individuals to insure themselves for the first three years of nursing home bills in return for the State paying their costs afterwards.

Bupa customers will also lose the right to choose any hospital for treatment and will have to select from an approved list of 150. Analysts said this would polarise the country's private hospitals with the most expensive units moving to cater almost exclusively for the rich and foreigners while others look after the middle and working classes.

Bupa's reforms have been prompted by undercutting of its prices as general insurance companies have entered the health market.

### More pets suffering neglect by owners

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

MORE horses and domestic pets are being neglected, often by owners who bought on impulse without being prepared to look after them, the RSPCA said yesterday.

The society also called for a national dog registration and microchipping scheme which would make it easier to trace irresponsible owners.

Cases of neglect rose from 1,541 in 1994 to 1,648 in 1995, and accounted for three quarters of all convictions for cruelty to animals, the RSPCA said in its annual report. However, convictions for acts of cruelty — involving neglect, beating or other physical attacks — dropped from 2,503 in 1994 to 2,201 last year.

Richard Davies, the society's chief inspector, said: "What is depressing is that 75 per cent of these convictions were for completely unnecessary negligence. People are still going out and buying animals on impulse without thinking about the cost, time and commitment required to look after them."

Dogs remain the main victims of cruelty. The symptoms of neglect seen by inspectors included starvation, worm and flea infestation and injuries left untreated.

### Start learning a new language

Introductory language guide on Linguaphone cassette for only £1.98

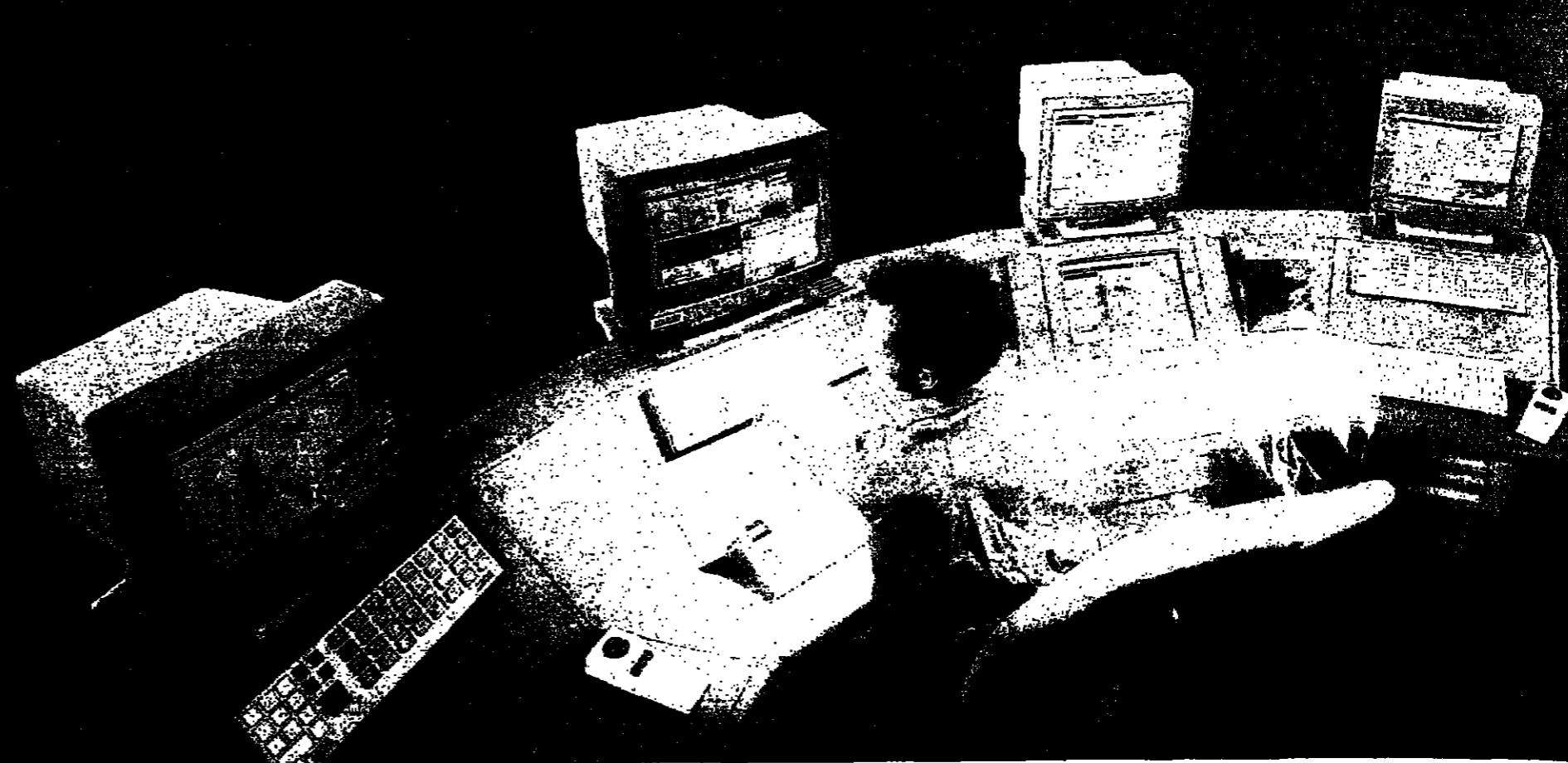


The Times and Linguaphone, the world's leading language teaching company, give you the opportunity to get a free 70-minute introductory language cassette. Choose from six foreign languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German and Greek. (You only have to pay £1.98 p&p for each cassette and collect three tokens for each one you order.) With your tape you will receive a useful words and phrases book. When you order a guide you will also receive a £50 voucher redeemable against the purchase of one of Linguaphone's more detailed language courses.

HOW TO APPLY  
There will be six tokens published in *The Times* this week and you need three for each cassette you order. Send them, with a completed coupon, and £1.98 to cover the cost of p&p for each cassette (£3.96 for two) stating the language/s you want. Make cheques or postal orders payable to Linguaphone Institute Ltd and send to: *The Times* Offer, Linguaphone Institute Ltd, 15134, St Giles House, 50 Poland Street, London, W1V 4AX. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

THE TIMES  
LINGUAPHONE  
LANGUAGE  
TAPES  
TOKEN 3

With Siebe's process controls, there's no such thing as a complex industrial complex.



At work in almost every corner of the world there's a British engineering company called Siebe. Anywhere a process is being automated you are likely to find one of our Foxboro systems making



life simpler. Beyond the factory our innovations stretch from cookers to compressors to complete head-to-toe safety gear. And we are always in the most important place of all. The lead.

SIEBE THE ENGINEER. HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

Siebe plc, Saxon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England. Tel. 01753 855411.



Charities  
warned to  
beware  
lottery  
advisers

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

HOME NEWS 7

## Unhygienic Princess who needs marching orders

SISTER MONK, the first operating theatre sister I worked under as a houseman, was regarded with the same awe as we viewed Regimental Sergeant-Major Ronald Britton when I was an officer cadet.

No young doctor would have been any more likely to appear in theatre with a forelock poking out from under his surgical cap than a soldier would have dared go on parade with a dirty cap badge, since RSM Britton was reputed to have the loudest voice in the British Army. There was a difference in the two offences, however, for whereas a dirty cap badge demonstrated only an ill-disciplined trooper, straggling hair might drip organisms onto an open wound and would cause immediate problems.

Sister Monk's language, if she had seen the Princess of Wales's hair peeping out from beneath her cap, might well have made Mr Britton blush, for it is unlikely that a theatre sister would have been any more polite to a young royal than were sergeant-majors to their troops. However, as the Princess of Wales presumably didn't touch the patient, or the operating staff, she might not have been sent out of the theatre ignominiously to scrub up and change but might have been let off with a verbal roasting as she was ordered to cover the dangerous locks.

When asepsis — the creation of a bacteria-free environment — replaced an

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

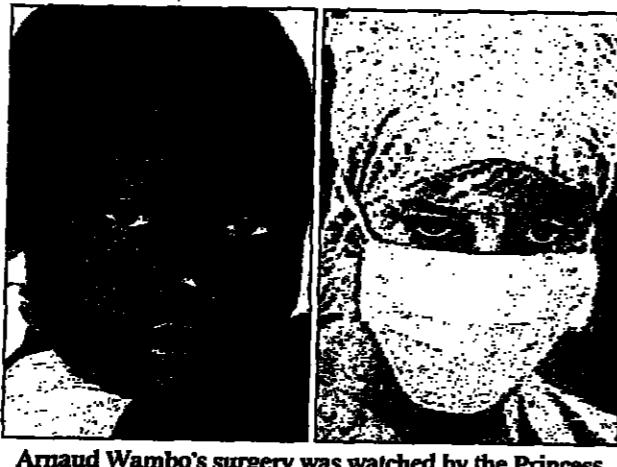
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

antiseptic fine spray in operating theatres, the aim was to achieve an atmosphere from which micro-organisms were excluded. Doctors and nurses in the theatre wear sterile gowns, caps and masks. They scrub their hands just as carefully as a soldier cleans his boots, and put on sterile gloves carefully so that the uncovered hand doesn't touch any part of the glove that will come into contact with patients.

Rings are regarded with particular disfavour by microbiologists. The bugs which

can be grown in the laboratory from the skin beneath a wedding ring would shock those who worry about cleanliness. The value of the surgical mask has been questioned, but research has shown that its effectiveness is undermined only if it is not changed often enough and becomes waterlogged from prolonged breathing or a dripping nose. To be useful the mask must cover the nose and mouth. The affection of wearing one under, rather than over, the nose defeats its purpose.

Anybody who doubts the



Arnaud Wambo's surgery was watched by the Princess

number of bacteria and other organisms that treat the hair as their natural habitat should study the distribution of infected acne on a sufferer's face. However, often these patients wash their hair and however well medicated their shampoo, angry spots develop in those places where dust and bugs shed from the hair settle. The spots therefore form along the forehead, below the hairline and on the cheeks. When people don't brush their hair back, it acts like a thatched roof and, just as water drips from its eaves and falls to the ground, so the debris from hair with its organisms falls on the face, or if the person is bending over an operating table, on to the patient.

□ The boy whose heart operation was observed by the Princess of Wales sat up in hospital yesterday. Arnaud Wambo, 7, who had surgery for a hole in his heart, is making a good recovery at Harefield Hospital, London.

Hans Murrmann, who will care for Arnaud until he is well enough for the journey home to Cameroon, praised the Princess for her interest in the boy's welfare. Less kind commentators have accused her of mounting a publicity stunt by attending the operation with a camera crew from Sky Television.

Mr Murrmann, 58, said the Princess had a genuine interest in the charity Chain of Hope, which brought Arnaud to Britain for surgery, performed free by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub.



Stefanie Powers and her husband outside the High Court yesterday after she received undisclosed damages

## Actress accepts payout for Sun libel

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE American actress Stefanie Powers received an apology in open court yesterday from *The Sun* over a defamatory article that caused her "grave distress".

The star of the long-running ITV series *Hart to Hart* was at the High Court in London to collect more than £70,000 in undisclosed damages and an estimated £30,000 in legal costs agreed in an out-of-court settlement.

The newspaper had wrongly published allegations that she had sexually harassed and assaulted a former male

employee. It was further alleged that she was an alcoholic and had made threats against the employee's life.

George Carman, QC, her counsel, said: "These allegations which were made in the article were entirely without foundation which the defendant now accepts."

Miss Powers had flown into London from her home in Kenya where she is president of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. She was accompanied by her husband, Patrick de la Chenes.

Outside court she said she pursued the action because the story had been picked up by newspapers around the world and repeated as fact. She said she was

especially distressed that the defamation should have happened in England where she has a home and has always been treated well by the public and press. Her greatest distress had been that the allegations were read by her husband's family, especially his grandmother.

"These are not things that made it a pleasure to have to go back and try to explain to them," she said. "We are very relieved to have all this behind us. It has been 11 months now. It has been extremely upsetting to all of us, especially to my husband's family." She said the allegations were clearly the work of "an extremely disgruntled human being".

RCN annual congress

## Nurses refuse to back boxing ban

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NURSES rejected a ban on boxing yesterday, opening a split within the medical profession. The Royal College of Nursing said that a ban would be an unreasonable infringement of personal liberty, and the best way to protect boxers was to allow the sport to continue with safeguards.

The surprise decision, carried by a large majority at the college's annual congress in Bournemouth, sets nurses apart from doctors whose professional body, the British Medical Association, has called for a ban since 1982. Nurses, debating the issue for

the first time, argued that a ban would do more harm than good by driving the sport underground. The congress was told that boxing has caused 500 deaths among professional and amateur boxers since 1884, when the Queensbury Rules were introduced, and that 15 professional boxers had died since 1945. Medical associations in the United States, Canada, Australia and Scandinavia have opposed boxing and professional boxing has been banned in Sweden since 1969.

Mike Hayward, a coronary care nurse in Portsmouth and

**Salary body 'like a puppet on a string'**

By JEREMY LAURANCE

NURSES accused their pay review body yesterday of sacrificing its independence to implement the Government's policy on local pay. By a margin of nine to one, members of the college's annual congress condemned the review body for behaving "like a puppet on a string that dances to the Government's tune".

They resisted calls, however, for a withdrawal from the pay-setting mechanism, which has been in place since 1983. The review body, a committee of seven appointed by the Government, was set up to take the heat out of annual pay negotiations.

The body was awarded to nurses in return for their commitment not to take industrial action, a commitment that was overturned by the college

a former boxer in the Army, said that to call for a ban would be "self-righteous and sanctimonious". Deaths among professional boxers were "very few" compared with those in rugby, parachuting, diving and motor sport.

"This is a choice entered into by two consenting adults," Mr Hayward said. "Boxing is not safe. However, it is their health and their bodies. How many fat and out-of-condition business executives drop dead on the squash court chasing a little rubber ball around? Should we ban squash?"

Mike Walsh, a nurse in Cumbria, said there had been 15 deaths in the past two years on the Lakeland fells but that was not a reason to ban hill walking. "I'm against boxing but banning it would be a serious mistake. It would drive it underground. If you want to protect the health of boxers, keep it legal."

Brian Kay, a nurse at the high-security Ashworth psychiatric hospital on Merseyside, who has cared for a brain-damaged boxer, urged the college to join the BMA in opposing boxing. "Is it really acceptable in a modern civilised society to promote and idolise one individual for his ability to perpetrate a violent assault upon his fellow?"

June Clarke, former president of the Society for Nursing People with a Disability, who proposed the motion, said: "When you consider the obscene rewards paid to encourage some people to engage in this activity, is this really free will? Is it not the most cynical form of exploitation?"

Sue Jones, of the Society of Paediatric Nursing, said: "At the very least the college should lobby for a ban on boxing before the age of consent."

□ Nurses struck off after committing serious crimes may be permanently barred from resuming their careers. The United Kingdom Central Council on Nursing, the disciplinary body, is considering changing its policy to allow life bans on those convicted of offences such as rape.



Be in three places at once.  
HP OfficeJet LX.

Printer

Fax

Copier

The new HP OfficeJet LX is designed to save you time and money by being able to do all your printing, faxing and copying for less than the price of the individual products.

Even the smallest office can now have all the equipment you need for today's business saving you time and money by being able to do all your printing, faxing and copying for less than the price of the individual products.

The HP OfficeJet LX. One product.

One manual. One set of supplies. A one year Express Exchange warranty. And only one place to go to find out more. Your nearest HP stockist. For more information call HP on 0990 474747.

**hp** HEWLETT<sup>®</sup>  
PACKARD

The new HP OfficeJet LX

\*13.8% APR is available on loans from £5,000 up to £10,000. 16.9% APR is available on loans from £5,000 to £4,599. Loans for business or charitable purposes are excluded. Fixe generally available Personal Loans are now offered at 22.04% p.a. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 24 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. This offer is not available in the Isle of Man.

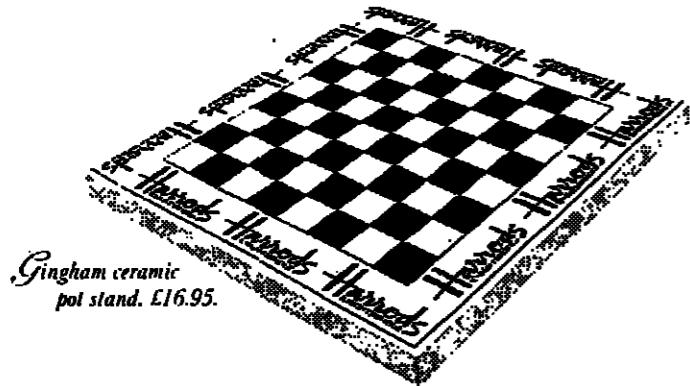
For your security and to receive our latest offers, please call us or write to: HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987, Registered Office: North Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 4TT. Registered in England No. 117305.



Gingham double oven glove, £9.95.



Folklore ceramic mugs, £7.95 each.



Gingham ceramic pot stand, £16.95.

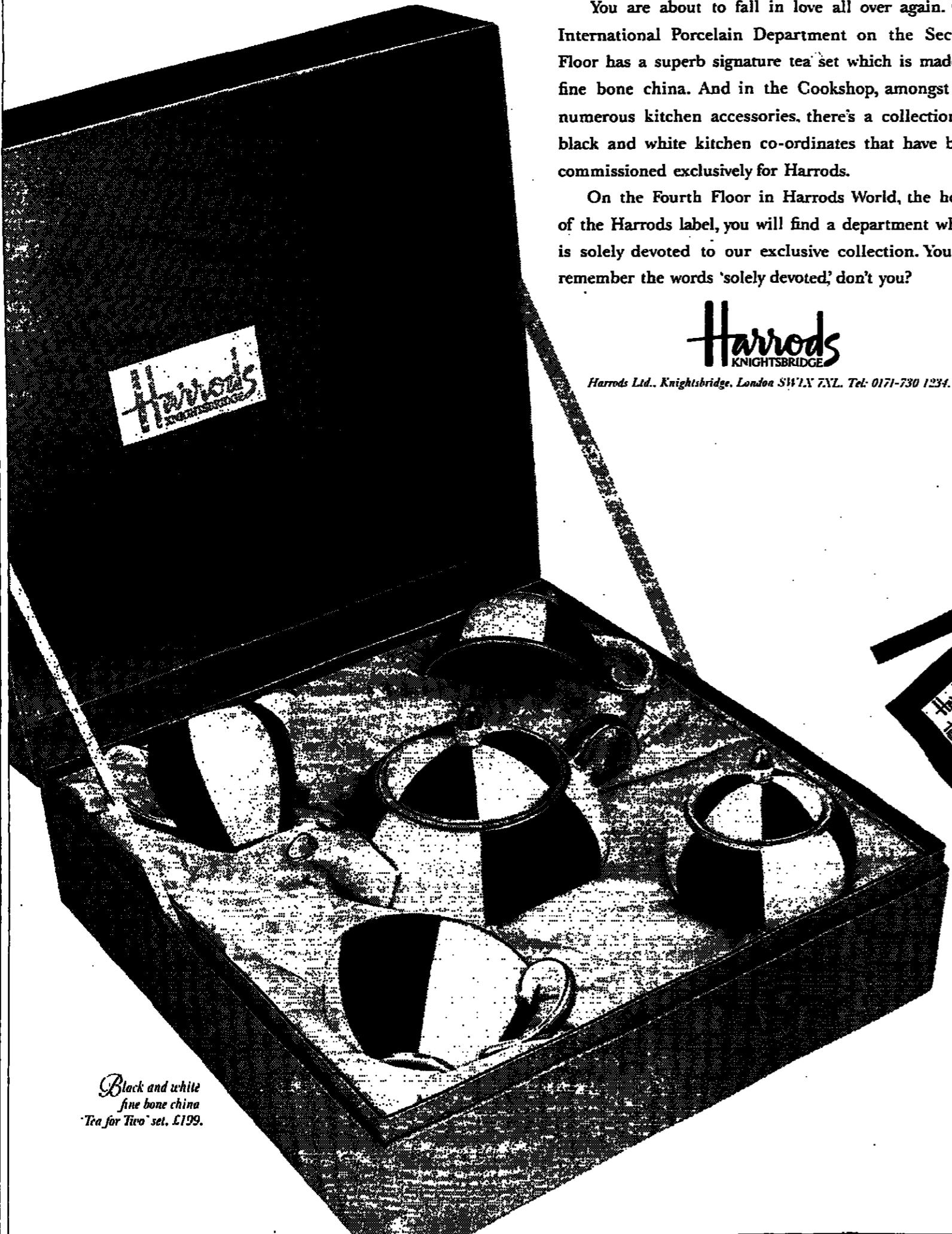
HARRODS INTRODUCES  
SOMETHING  
NOT PREVIOUSLY  
SEEN IN YOUR KITCHEN.  
NO, NOT  
YOUR HUSBAND.

You are about to fall in love all over again. Our International Porcelain Department on the Second Floor has a superb signature tea set which is made of fine bone china. And in the Cookshop, amongst the numerous kitchen accessories, there's a collection of black and white kitchen co-ordinates that have been commissioned exclusively for Harrods.

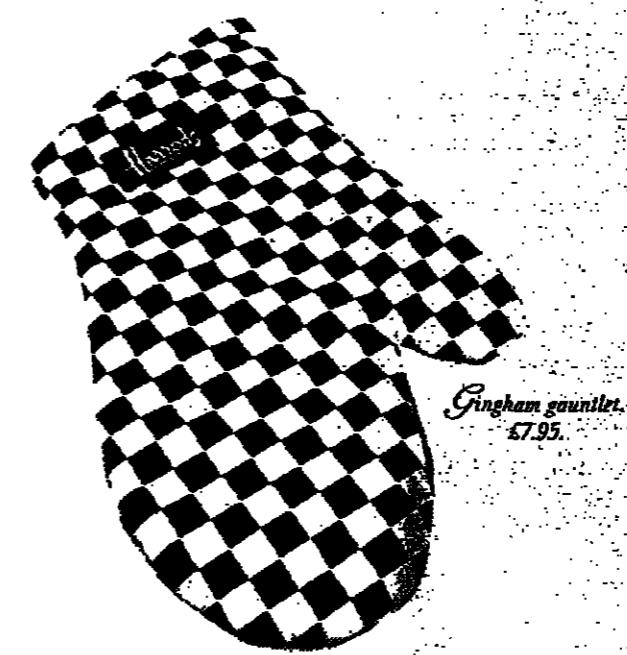
On the Fourth Floor in Harrods World, the home of the Harrods label, you will find a department which is solely devoted to our exclusive collection. You do remember the words 'solely devoted', don't you?

**Harrods**  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Tel: 0171-730 1234.



Black and white fine bone china 'Tea for Two' set, £19.95.



Gingham gauntlet, £7.95.



Gingham apron, £11.95.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

I loved my  
Coma  
tells

Mutant  
a fifth of

re

Just compare  
these interest rates

Bank of England	14.5%
Barclays	14.5%
Challenger	14.5%
First Direct	14.5%
HSBC	14.5%
Leisure	14.5%
Midland	14.5%
NatWest	14.5%
Prudential	14.5%
Standard Chartered	14.5%
Teesside	14.5%
Westpac	14.5%
Woolwich	14.5%

CALL FREE NOW

0800 100 1000

The Royal Bank of Scotland

'I loved my wife. She was beautiful. When I see her I can't believe it is the same woman'

## Coma victim's husband tells of family in grief

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE husband of a coma patient in Scotland's first right-to-die case has spoken of his love for his wife and of the strain that the court battle to allow her to die has placed on his family.

A court will decide on the fate of Janet Johnston, 53, who has been in a persistent vegetative state in Law Hospital, Strathclyde, for four years after taking an overdose. Doctors, supported by her family, have asked the Scottish courts to allow them to stop treating her, which would lead to her death through dehydration within a fortnight.

A final decision in the case was expected yesterday but an 11th-hour intervention by lawyers representing Mrs Johnston's interests led to a further delay. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom will now give his decision today.

The delay left Mrs Johnston's husband close to tears. "I don't understand. It just adds to the strain." The retired butcher has received distressing letters from people opposed to euthanasia. One said: "If you do not show love and mercy to your wife, you will not receive any love or mercy." Mr Johnston, of Aikton, Strathclyde, said: "Things are



Peter Johnston has had anti-euthanasia letters

difficult enough without these. Some are supportive but others are not. Whatever happens I want everyone to know I love my wife.

"I just want her to die in peace and with dignity. Thank God Janet will soon be at rest. The hospital staff have done a lot for her. I don't want them to get into trouble if they stop feeding her. I don't want doctors or any of the staff prosecuted or anything like that. That would be wrong.

"That's why it went to the courts in the first place and I don't want to see other people's lives ruined because of this decision. People have got

their own opinions about euthanasia. Some people will say I'm doing the right thing and others won't, but it's the family's decision.

"Janet would have wanted to die. I think she would have done the same for me. We talked about a lot of things when we were younger. We made our own choices.

"There is so much that Janet has missed or doesn't know. She doesn't know what her grandchildren look like, she hasn't cuddled the youngest one. She doesn't know that our son Derek, 24, died three years ago of a brain haemorrhage. I have been in hospital myself. It could be me in there if circumstances had been different. I'm tired of waiting for a verdict. It's been going on for a long time and it's causing pain to the whole family.

"I loved my wife very much. She was beautiful. When I see her now, I can't believe it is the same woman. I don't visit her as often as I should, I just find it too painful."

Mr Johnston, who has been married for 33 years, explained what happened on the day she took the overdose. "The day she was taken ill I had been in hospital for a check-up. When I came back she was fine and I went into the kitchen to make tea. When I came back I discovered that

she had taken a lot of tablets. She had to take a lot of medication for her asthma. I don't know whether it was intentional or an accident. I called the ambulance straight away and she walked to it and seemed fine." His wife became seriously ill at the hospital, however, and slid into the coma from which she has never responded to stimuli.

The case, the first of its kind in Scotland, has taken eight months and has been heard by five of Scotland's most senior judges. They ruled that Lord Cameron could make a final decision in the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The case will set a precedent in Scotland but will not give doctors freedom to stop treating coma patients who are unlikely to recover. The court has ruled that cases must be considered individually by the Court of Session.

Yesterday Colin McEachran, QC, for the Curator appointed to look after Mrs Johnston's interests, told Lord Cameron: "In a world where the frontiers of medical science are never closed, the Curator suggests the court should prefer that life continues to the certainty of death if treatment is removed."

"He added that there were people who had been in a coma for months who had recovered.



Janet and Peter Johnston when she was 35. "I want her to die with dignity"

## Mutant genes blamed for a fifth of ovarian cancers

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

GENETIC defects may be responsible for a fifth of cases of ovarian cancer, the American Association for Cancer Research has been told.

Dr Donald Black, of the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow, told the meeting in Washington DC that gene mutations were likely to prove a more common cause of the disease than previously suspected.

It was believed that 5 to 10 per cent of ovarian cancer cases were attributable to genes, including two original

ly identified in breast cancer patients, BRCA1 and BRCA2. But new evidence was forcing researchers to think again.

"Genetic susceptibility may be responsible for a far higher frequency of ovarian cancer than we believed," Dr Black said. One problem with assessing the importance of the genes was that they were unpredictable. The same mutant gene may trigger the disease in one woman while sparing her forebears.

Dr Jeffrey A. Boyd, of the University of Pennsylvania, reported an analysis of the BRCA2 gene in 130 women with ovarian cancer. While he

said mutations in that gene appeared to be responsible for at least 5 per cent of ovarian cancers, victims with the gene typically had no clear family history of that malignancy.

When the inborn flaws that triggered ovarian cancer were tracked down "the number may be as high as 20 per cent for all genetic predisposition", he said.

When the genes functioned properly, they produced proteins that prevented cancer. That meant, Dr Black said, that it should be possible for drug companies to produce synthetic molecules with the same function.

The panel of nutritionists, civil servants and representatives from the food

## Stock answers for a slimmer Britain

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of experts has taken three years to decide that the way to prevent humans becoming fat is to have thinner cows and sheep. People should also consider removing the skin before eating chicken.

The long-awaited report of the Nutrition Task Force, searching for ways to reduce obesity by the next century, suggests leaner livestock, more cooking lessons in schools and a network of "community cafés" providing healthy meals for the poor. It has already produced guidelines for healthier hospital food. Although the team is being disbanded, it will live on in the form of an annual conference on diet and nutrition that the Department of Health has agreed to hold.

The panel of nutritionists, civil servants and representatives from the food

industry was forbidden by the Government from considering whether benefit payments were high enough to afford a healthy diet. Income Support for a child under 11 is about £16 a week.

One of the more concrete proposals in its report is that fat entering the food chain should be reduced by breeding leaner farm animals and feeding them diets to keep them slim.

The Meat and Livestock Commission is using new technology and genetics to reduce the fatness of cattle and sheep without losing the taste of meat. Beef and veal contribute 3.5 per cent of fat in the nation's diet. There have been small reductions in the fatness of cattle and sheep over the past 12 years and these are expected to continue.

Poultry provides 2.7 per cent of the nation's fat but there is little room to make chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese any leaner. They are already bred as a

low-fat healthy option with tightly controlled feeding systems.

The panel recommends that customers should be told that most poultry fat is in the skin. The poor have the worst diets and are more likely to die of cancer and other nutrition-related diseases.

Poor families cannot afford to travel to out-of-town supermarkets offering healthier options and have to rely on discount stores and frozen food shops, the panel says. Wholemeal bread, lean meat and fruit are too expensive, even when mothers go without meals so that they can feed their families.

The panel, prevented from recommending that giving the poor more money was a solution, suggests they should shop in street markets. The community cafés are proposed alongside "local food partnerships", which involve councils taking healthy products by van to deprived estates.

## 14 years' jail for knife rampage

Darren Rowe, 30, who rampaged through a housing estate slashing bystanders with a knife, was jailed yesterday for 14 years. He claimed he was hunting a gang that had been harassing him.

He left two teenagers and a bus driver scarred. Southwark Crown Court, southeast London, was told. One victim needed 50 stitches. Another's cheek was cut from his ear to his mouth.

Rowe admitted three charges of wounding, carried out near his home in Poplar, east London, within a few minutes. The victims were black but Judge Butler accepted there was no racial motive.

## Asylum cases cut

The number of people seeking political asylum in Britain has fallen by more than 20 per cent in the two months since curbs on benefits were introduced to discourage bogus asylum seekers. The move followed a big increase in applications.

## Girl in 99 crash

A girl aged 10 is in intensive care after her father's car was in collision with a police car answering a 999 call in Exeter. Karen Randhawa, whose brother and sister were also passengers, suffered head injuries.

## Chain reaction

A chain-mail coat worn by a 15th-century sultan of the Mameluke Empire sold for a record £243,500 to an anonymous bidder at Christie's in London yesterday, the highest price yet paid for an item of Islamic armour or weaponry.

## MP recovers

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, was released from hospital after fainting at his London home five days ago during a radio phone-in. Mr Mallon, 59, MP for Newry and Armagh, was treated at St Thomas's Hospital.

## Nightclub lock-in

An 18-year-old girl was locked in a nightclub for 38 hours after falling asleep in a lavatory cubicle. She was freed by firemen who cut through shutters at the club in Norton, Co Durham, after a boy heard her shouts on Monday night.

**One card can reduce the size of your debts.**



14.5% APR

Just compare these interest rates

Card	Annual Fee	APR	MasterCard Saver*
Royal Bank of Scotland MasterCard	£0	14.5%	Same low rate since Nov 95
Barclays MasterCard & Visa	£10	22.3%	£358.40
Urgo Access	£12	22%	£333.60
Midland Access & Visa	£12	22.3%	£351.60
NatWest Access & Visa	£12	22.3%	£376.00

APPLY NOW FOR:

**The Royal Bank of Scotland**

MASTERCARD

- Transfer your existing credit and store card balances
- You don't need to be a Royal Bank of Scotland customer
- No annual fee
- Accepted everywhere
- Maintain your credit limit
- Comes with cheque book for added convenience

ROYAL BANK MASTERCARD REQUEST

Please note that if you pay your credit card balance every month, this card is probably not for you. (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

To: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, FREEPOST, PM 1011, Widford, SS11 8ER

MasterCard

WHY PAY MORE?

CALL FREE NOW 0800 161616 Ext 869

LINES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 8AM-10PM

OR SEE US ON THE INTERNET ON [www.royalbankscot.co.uk](http://www.royalbankscot.co.uk)

NOTE: UNAVAILABLE TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE. SUBJECT TO STATUS. CARDHOLDER IS ASSUMED TO MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS WITHIN 25 DAYS OF STATEMENT DATE OF AT LEAST THE MINIMUM SUM SPECIFIED ON STATEMENT WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN 5% OF THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OR £5, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. OR THE AMOUNT DUE IF LESS THAN £5. INTEREST IS APPLIED FROM THE DATE THE TRANSACTION IS APPLIED TO THE ACCOUNT. APR VARIABLE. CURRENT RATES AS AT 1 MAY 1996. THE SAVING THAT CAN BE EXPECTED BY TRANSFERRING A BALANCE OF £1,000 TO THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND MASTERCARD AND MAINTAINING THAT BALANCE FOR 2 YEARS. THE ABOVE APRS INCLUDE THE ANNUAL FEE WHERE APPLIED.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

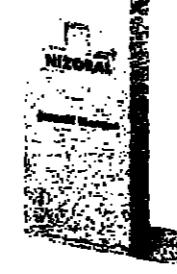
First Aid for your dandruff.

Our solution, the Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo formula, proved so successful that it's been tried and trusted by doctors and dermatologists for years. Our shampoo cares for your hair differently. The breakthrough came when we identified and patented an ingredient that would specifically target and prevent the microbe that is the root cause of dandruff.



Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo works differently. As the microbe is prevented from returning, so too, are the itching and flaking symptoms. Unlike some harsher anti-dandruff treatments, our Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo is actually nice to use as well, being gentle and perfume free. So all you'll be aware of is how clean and healthy your hair feels.

Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo is effective, and after an initial period of using it twice weekly, you should only need to use it once a week to keep dandruff away. In between, you can wash your hair with whatever shampoo you like. You can buy a bottle from your pharmacist without prescription. To obtain your free information leaflet, call 0991 134 218.



NIZORAL DANDRUFF SHAMPOO. FIRST AID FOR DANDRUFF.

ONLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR PHARMACIST. CONTAINS KETONICINADYL. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. NIZORAL DANDRUFF SHAMPOO IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK.



It's time to take Goldsmiths  
real seriously

RIDGE  
ON DOWNS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 11

3

## Clinton abortion veto is attacked

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, named Irish-American of the Year only last month, was under attack from Irish-Americans on two fronts yesterday.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, America's largest Irish-Catholic group, with 100,000 members, withdrew an invitation to the President to attend its annual meeting in July because he vetoed Republican legislation banning a particularly controversial late-term abortion technique.

A coalition of 11 Irish-American organisations simultaneously released a letter expressing "deep disappointment" at his failure to make US support for companies investing in Northern Ireland conditional on adherence to principles which encourage equal employment opportunities for Catholics and Protestants.

In an unusually strong attack on a head of state last week, the Vatican described "partial birth abortions", in which doctors partially deliver a foetus before crushing its skull, as "an incredibly brutal act of aggression".

On Monday, congressional Republicans invited evidence from Gianna Jessen, 19, who survived her mother's attempt to abort her as a 7-month foetus but has cerebral palsy as a result.

"I am the person that she aborted. I lived instead of died," she told a House committee. "I do not consider myself a by-product of conception or a clump of tissue. I was as much a person when I was aborted as I am today."

Ms Jessen was born alive despite a saline injection but the abortionist was not in the clinic at that moment. A nurse sent her to a hospital where she was adopted. She said she forgave her real mother.



Jessen: she survived an attempt to abort her



From the left, the unrestored portrait donated by Mrs Flower; the death mask at Darmstadt; and a computer composite of the portrait donated by Lord Chandos and a 1623 engraving

## Computer unmasks Bard's cancer

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

STAND by for an academic rumpus: the war of Shakespeare's eye. Neatly timed to coincide with the anniversary of the poet's death, a German researcher has come up with fresh evidence bolstering her case that Shakespeare suffered from a rare form of cancer, lymphoma of the tear gland.

Professor Hildegard Hammerschmid-Hummel, of Mainz University, has for years been trying to give Shakespeare back his face. Now, with the help of German detectives and top medical specialists, she has come up with a plausible version and an intriguing explanation for his death. The results will be presented at the German Shakespeare Society's annual conference this week and are sure to trigger controversy in Stratford-upon-Avon and throughout the world of Shakespearean scholarship.

The starting point is the death mask, now on display in a Darmstadt museum. "I am now 100 per cent certain that the mask is that of Shakespeare," says the professor. British scholars believe it to be a fake.

There are two acknowledged authentic depictions of Shakespeare: a copper plate engraving in the First Folio of 1623, and a limestone bust in Stratford's Holy Trinity Church. Both were regarded as good likenesses by among others, Ben Jonson. These serve as the professor's comparative base. Using face-matching and video-splicing techniques normally employed to catch criminals,

Professor Hammerschmid-Hummel, however, argues that the mask — which has 1616, the year of Shakespeare's death, on it — was bought in London in 1775 by a nobleman from Mainz, Count Franz von Kesselstatt. The count brought the mask home. It subsequently disappeared from view, but was later found in an antique shop by a court painter. The mask survived wartime bombardment and was sold by the painter's descendants in 1960 to the Darmstadt authorities.

This week Professor Hammerschmid-Hummel will present documentary proof that Count Kesselstatt was in London in 1775. German police computers, moreover, have bolstered her case.

Professor Hammerschmid-Hummel argues that the death mask and the Chandos

and Flower portraits were all genuine, and that taken together they represent an accurate picture of the playwright. But she also found a strange swelling in the left eye of the mask and the two portraits.

The computer also found a remarkable 17 points of agreement between the First Folio engraving and two other portraits — one donated by Lord Chandos to the National Portrait Gallery in the mid-19th century, and another given by Mrs Charles Flower to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre picture gallery in Stratford. "Police tell me that such a high degree of agreement would be enough to convict a criminal in a court of law," the German academic says.

The professor's speech to the Shakespeare Society this week will add yet another medical

dimension: the discovery of a lump above the left eyebrow, visible in both the restored version of the Flower portrait and the death mask. Professor Jost Metz, a top German dermatologist, has been consulted and has established that it must have been a three-centimetre swelling indicative of chronic inflammation. Doctors disagree on the significance of that bulge. Some say it may be associated with the cancerous Mikulicz's Syndrome, others believe it might have been a bone tumour.

There is already a hint in Macbeth of the impending controversy: "Your face, my thane, is as a book where men May read strange matters."

Leading article, page 19



The German professor with the death mask

## Ukrainian says 'voice told him to kill 52'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN KIEV

A FORESTER has admitted killing 52 people across Ukraine, claiming that he was following an "inner voice", investigators said yesterday.

Anatoli Onoprienko, 36, was arrested last week on suspicion of the murders, which have shaken Ukrainians in recent months. About 42 of the killings were committed in the past four months, and in most cases entire families were killed. Ten of the victims were children.

An intensive investigation is under way, involving law enforcement bodies from across the country, a leading investigator in the case said.

"He talks about that 'inner voice,' but then why did he also steal valuable goods from his victim?", the investigator, who spoke on terms of anonymity, asked.

Mr Onoprienko, in custody in a prison in Lvov, western Ukraine, is undergoing a psychological examination. He was arrested in a village near the Polish border on April 14 after a 35-month manhunt. Police discovered clothes, televisions and car keys from the victims' houses, as well as other evidence from the scenes of the crimes.

Aleksandr Yevashchenko, a senior investigator with Ukraine's Interior Ministry, said Mr Onoprienko admitted immediately to eight murders committed from 1989 to 1995, but initially denied the other killings. The suspect has not registered an official residence since 1988. He was deported from Austria in 1992 for not having a passport, and again from Germany last year. Ukraine has turned to Interpol for help in the investigation.

With *Jazz Greats* you can lie back and relax with some of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Each fortnight it brings you an hour of music from a jazz legend on CD or cassette. Each carefully chosen track has been digitally re-mastered to let you hear the music as it was meant to be heard, while the accompanying magazine looks at their life and times, highlights key moments in the history of jazz and puts their work in context, giving you an insight into some of this century's greatest musicians.

Spend an hour with Billie Holiday for just £1.99



In part one read Billie Holiday's harrowing tale of prostitution and drugs. Follow her path from poor servant to jazz siren as you listen to masterpieces like *Strange Fruit* and *Summertime*.

Featuring such masters as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Ella Fitzgerald, spanning New Orleans Ragtime to bebop and latino, *Jazz Greats* builds into the ultimate collection of the world's jazz music.

"Their lives, their times, but most of all their music."



jazz  
greats

Issue one only £1.99  
at all good newsagents.

<http://www.mcmmedia.com> A Marshall Cavendish Leisure Collection

gital Nokia  
rs of power

**PAY  
YOUR  
MOTOR  
AND  
HOME  
INSURANCE  
BIT BY BIT,  
INTEREST  
FREE.**

No large lump sums  
to pay. No interest to pay.  
No need to hang about.  
Call now for details.

**GA**  
General Accident  
Direct

**MOTOR INSURANCE 0800 121 000 • BUILDINGS & CONTENTS 0800 121 004**  
PAY BY INSTALMENTS INTEREST FREE

**REDUNDANCY & SICKNESS 0800 121 008 • TRAVEL 0800 121 007**  
Weekdays 8am - 8pm, Sat 9am - 5pm.

\*Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR.  
<http://www.gadirect.co.uk>

# Energetic Yeltsin makes comeback in opinion polls

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FOR the first time since campaigning began in Russia's presidential elections, President Yeltsin has surged to the lead in opinion polls, overtaking Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader.

In a dramatic comeback for a man whose political future had been written off by many analysts because of his unpopularity and ill health, Mr Yeltsin, 65, polled nearly one percentage point higher than his main rival.

The poll, conducted by the Institute for Social Comparative Research for the *Moscow Times* and CNN, showed that President Yeltsin was supported by 20.7 per cent of the 1,201 respondents questioned in cities and rural areas across Russia. Mr Zyuganov came a close second with 19.8 per cent. While the Communist leader's rating was virtually unchanged from an identical poll in March, the new figures showed Mr Yeltsin boasting

his support by nearly seven percentage points. Other pollsters preparing new figures for release this month, confirmed that their results would show a similar trend.

The two front-runners were still far ahead of the other presidential hopefuls: Grigori Yavlinsky, the leader of the liberal Yabloko party, came in a distant third with 6.5 per cent; followed by Vladimir Zhurinovsky, the ultra-nationalist firebrand with 4.8 per cent; then General Aleksandr Lebed, the former paratroop commander with 4.7 per cent followed by Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the eye surgeon, with 3.2 per cent; and finally Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, with just below 1 per cent.

The figures indicated that none of the candidates would be able to secure the 50 per cent needed to win outright in the June 16 poll and that a run-off round between President

Using the vast resources of his office, Mr Yeltsin has also gone on a spending spree,



Russian border guards stand amid the ruins of a fort which was blown up last year in an attempt to relieve tension on the border with China.

paying back wages to workers and promising huge government funding for everything from pensions to ailing factories and bankrupt farmers. He has managed to persuade voters, through a sympathetic media, that they have only two choices, which has virtually eliminated any serious challenge from a third candidate.

Analysts now believe that

exhausting campaign trips and brought popular members of his family, like his wife, Naina, into the limelight.

Last weekend he sought to boost his role as a statesman when he hosted the summit of the Group of Seven main industrialised countries, whose leaders tacitly endorsed his re-election bid.

Analysts now believe that

only two issues could seriously dent his chances. The first is his heart condition. The other is the war in Chechnya which he had hoped would calm down after his peace initiative last month. However, fighting has escalated and yesterday gunners shot and injured Badruddin Dzhumalikhanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Moscow-installed Government, in an assassination attempt in the capital, Grozny.

## Big brother Peking brushes red carpet for humbled visitor

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PRESIDENT Yeltsin arrives in China today to sign border agreements, define bilateral ties, sell some weapons, and be tactfully reminded that Peking, by retaining the power of the Communist Party, has kept China whole and powerful.

It is one of the ironies of international relations that Russia — or the former Soviet Union — once regarded in China as the advanced "elder brother" is now in economic and military eclipse and may be on the verge of re-establishing its Communist structure.

It is a further irony that, whereas China was once used as a card by Washington in its decades-long manoeuvring against the Russians, now Mr Yeltsin, who has just concluded several hours of talks in Moscow with President Clinton, has become a bargaining chip between Peking and Washington.

Sino-Russian specialists in Moscow and Peking speak openly of joint pressure on the Americans. Mr Yeltsin made the most of this on the eve of his departure from Moscow. "Between Russia and China there are no problems of a political nature," he said. Mr

Yeltsin foresees a "Russia-China partnership in the next century".

While both countries agree that America's global "hegemony" is undesirable, there will be neither real friendship nor an alliance. Although the Chinese once referred to Mr Yeltsin as a "tsar", and now praise him for his eagerness to settle border questions which have hung over the two countries for two centuries, they will dismiss his statements in Moscow on Monday — in the wake of his talks with Mr Clinton — linking economics and democracy.

The Sino-Soviet alliance of the 1950s is dead — and vanished too — is the rivalry which disturbed the long border between the Communist giants from the 1960s until Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Peking in 1989, just before the Tiananmen Square massacre.

During his three-day visit, Mr Yeltsin and three leaders from former Soviet states, Tajikistan, Kirghizia and Kazakhstan, will sign agreements with the Chinese that the five countries will not attack each other. All have a common interest in combating Muslim fundamentalism.

## Fire hits Chernobyl zone

Tovsty Lis: Fire engulfed at least five villages within an exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power station yesterday during an annual visit to their abandoned homes by evacuated residents.

Firefighters were unable to establish the cause of the fire, which broke out during this year's first spell of warm weather. They said the flames, smoke and dust had sent radiation readings soaring in the heavily contaminated 18-mile zone round the plant.

Some of the 300 villagers who had come to see their deserted apartments and tend graves in Tovsty Lis broke down hysterically as flames consumed entire apartment buildings and raced through fields and woods. (Reuters)

**"Now's your chance to have something you treasure, valued free."**



On Friday, 26th April, at each of Phillips 23 salerooms around the country, our specialists will be lined up to give free auction valuations. You can chat to them informally, and get the feel of a great auction house which has been working for its clients since 1796.

Simply bring along your antiques, porcelain, paintings, silver or collectables to your nearest Phillips saleroom on the day. (Or provide a good photo.)

Call now on the number below for full details and a free copy of Phillips Auction Diary.

**Phillips**

**NATIONAL VALUATION DAY**

with CLASSIC FM

**FRIDAY, 26th APRIL**

**10 FREE (9am to 5pm Mon-Fri)**

**0500 00 1796**



Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AS

**The great London auction house with a saleroom near you**



Phillips on the Internet: <http://www.phillips-auctions.com>

FOUNDED 1796

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

Italy's  
wooing

# When we rescued him we found something even more disturbing. A fat cat.

Not the kind of thing you'd think the RSPCA would usually have much reason to worry about.

The difference was this particular fat cat drove a Rolls Royce, lived in a detached house and was the owner of Duke, a disease-ridden and desperately underweight Great Dane.

Locked in a small concrete outhouse, Duke was covered from head to tail in skin diseases and was two stone underweight when rescued.

He was barely able to walk and had to be carried outside by our inspector.

According to the vet, he had been suffering for at least four months.

According to his owner, he had been fed "at least three times a day".

It's tempting to think that animals are only neglected



by people who cannot afford to care for them properly.

And although poverty is not an excuse, it is often a reason for animals' suffering.

(It costs about £700 a year to look after a normal, healthy dog.)

But the fact is that animal neglect happens across all walks of life.

It's not money that's in short supply, it's knowledge.

The owner of a dog that could barely stand through starvation said she didn't think that it needed medical attention.

One German Shepherd had

a cancerous growth the size of a football under its eye. The owner thought it would just sort itself out.

Clearly, money was not a problem for Duke's owner. (He paid his £1,573 fine on the spot and in cash.)

The RSPCA isn't so lucky. We receive no funding from the government and have to rely on your generosity.

In fact, it's only thanks to you we can afford to rescue animals like Duke.

Please give what you can and help us fight not just cruelty, but ignorance.

Please send a cheque / postal order payable to the RSPCA. Simply complete and return this coupon to: RSPCA, FREEPOST, Bristol, BS38 7AJ.

Your donation will go towards helping the RSPCA fight animal neglect and cruelty.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Neglect is cruelty.



THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

BT  
FREESTYLE 80  
CORDLESS PHONE  
• Switches channels automatically for improved reception  
• 10 number memory  
• Out of range warning  
• Paging facility

Dixons  
£79.99  
Dixons  
345 BRANCHES NATION

## Italy's Centre Left starts wooing coalition allies

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ROMANO PRODI, the leader of Italy's Centre Left, began manoeuvring yesterday to form a government after his election victory, by putting out feelers to both the Communist Refoundation party and the separatist Northern League. Either could give his Olive Tree bloc the extra seats it needs for a secure parliamentary majority.

However, he rejected Communist demands for an index-linked incomes policy, saying that it was a "self-destructive instrument".

The Olive Tree gained 284 seats in the 630-seat lower house, but needs 316 for a clear majority. Signor Prodi said he hoped to rule for five years to give Italy stability, though it would "not be easy".

The unexpected election result, he said, should enable Italy to avoid unstable coalitions and "reversals" of the kind that brought down the short-lived centre-right Government led by Silvio

Berlusconi in 1994. Signor Prodi said his priorities included early re-entry of the lira into the European Monetary System, which it left, with sterling, in 1992.

Lamberto Dini, the former banker and caretaker Prime Minister who governed after the fall of Signor Berlusconi, was welcome to join the new administration. "If he wants the Foreign Ministry, there will be no problem," Signor Prodi said.

The Communist Refoundation, led by Fausto Bertinotti, was yesterday in triumphal mood after winning 35 seats. Signor Bertinotti, an articulate hardline Marxist who speaks with Isp, which is seen in Italy as an aristocratic affection, was photographed uncorking champagne.

He demanded "shock therapy" to reduce working hours, state-funded socially useful work projects in the depressed South, and an incomes policy linked to the cost of living. He

said the Centre Right would have won if it had not been for the Refoundation's agreement not to contest seats where the Olive Tree might win.

However, Signor Prodi said an incomes policy, abolished three years ago, would "undermine international confidence" in the new Italy. Cesare Romiti, the chairman of Fiat, which with the rest of big business has welcomed the Prodi victory, said an incomes policy would mark "a return to the Middle Ages".

To show that he could bypass the hard Left, Signor Prodi asked Massimo D'Alema, the leader of the Party of the Democratic Left, the former Communists, to open talks with the Northern League, led by Umberto Bossi.

The League confounded critics by winning 59 lower-house seats in the North, where it aims to create a separate state. Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing Mayor of Venice, said voters had rewarded Signor

Bossi's courage in leaving the centre-right bloc and "going it alone". However, it was difficult to see how the Centre Left could find a federalist formula that would satisfy Signor Bossi, even if Signor Prodi carried out his hints that Irene Pivetti, the League's deputy leader, might remain Speaker of the lower house.

On the Right, recriminations began as Gianfranco Fini, leader of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, rebutted allegations that fear of a Fascist resurgence had alienated voters. He said the Right had underestimated the appeal of the Northern League.

Signor Berlusconi denied that he would leave politics, saying he was a "sentinel of freedom", and rejected accusations that voters had found him an unconvincing candidate for Prime Minister in view of his trial for alleged bribery of tax officials auditing his huge business empire.

## Opening of new doors shuts out concierge

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

THE Parisian concierge, that crucial figure in French mythology combining the roles of caretaker, moral guardian and local spy, is gradually disappearing from the city's doorsteps, a victim of new technology and pressure for housing space.

In 1950 Paris contained 60,000 concierges, or *gardien* as they prefer to be called, sharp-eyed curtain-twitchers who carefully monitored the comings and goings in almost every Paris apartment block. But their number has halved, as landlords shift to electronic door-opening codes and let out the ground floor flat where the concierge once lurked behind a wall of moral rectitude.

The plight of the concierges was brought home this week by the case of Madeleine Maquignau, 73, a widow threatened with eviction from the flat she has occupied for nearly four decades. The owners of her building in the 20th arrondissement point out that she is still living there rent-free, even though she retired in 1992 when her door-answering duties were replaced by an intercom system. Residents of the building have mounted a petition against her eviction, but the elderly *gardienne* has been told she must be out by May 13.

Mme Maquignau's fate after such long and loyal service has prompted a public outcry, even though the relationship between Paris and its concierges has always been ambivalent at best. The concierge answers the door, delivers the post and ensures that unknown or unkempt persons do not enter the building. She (or, in a small percentage of cases, he) keeps communal areas clean, takes deliveries and makes sure the rubbish is collected.

On the other hand, as the nickname *cloptores* (woodlice) suggests, they also have a time-hallowed reputation as gossip-mongering agents in league with the state, responsible for chasing the rent and clamping down on lax behaviour.



The concierge for years the eyes, ears and morals of Paris, is fast disappearing

Several victims of Madame la Guillotine had Madame la Concierge to thank for reporting them to the Revolutionary authorities. After the Occupation many *gardien* were accused of aiding the Gestapo, although there are other well-documented cases of concierges who risked their lives to hide fleeing Jews in the cellars.

Not since leaving Cambridge University, where April "the cruellest month" took it upon herself to act as my moral conscience, have I experienced such close daily scrutiny from someone to whom I am not directly related. Mme Fernandez tends to materialise out of the carpet in the lobby every morning with such remarks as "Good dinner party? Lots of bottles I see." Or: "A letter from your mother this morning." Or, even more disconcertingly since she speaks not a word of English: "Still writing about mad cows, then?"

But she is also a mine of local information, deeply committed to "her" tenants. When our removal van arrived several months ago and successfully blocked the entire street for over an hour, Mme Fernandez stood guard like a small Spanish rottweiler, staring down, in turn, irate motorists, neighbouring shopkeepers and the police.

Discussing the situation of Madeleine Maquignau, the soon-to-be-homeless concierge, Mme Fernandez is sanguine and typically blunt. "What would you do without me to look after you?"

## Chirac in storm over Mobutu visit

BY BEN MACINTYRE

PRESIDENT Chirac was embroiled in another human rights controversy yesterday over a visit to France by Mobutu Sese Seko, the Zairean强人 repeatedly condemned by the international community for failing to initiate democratic reform.

Two weeks after a controversial visit by Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, Lib-

eration reported that President Mobutu was expected to meet M. Chirac at the Elysée Palace today. Such a meeting would be seen as another sign of support for "regimes whose respect for human rights is hardly a shining example", the newspaper noted.

The French Foreign Ministry would say that President Mobutu's visit was "private", while conceding that the Zairean leader might

discuss the refugee situation on the Rwanda-Zaire border with French officials.

The spokesman refused to comment on whether the French President would meet his Zairean counterpart in person.

The secrecy of this visit demonstrates how far Chirac himself is aware of its unacceptable character," Henri Leclerc, of the League of Human Rights, said.

## Dixons

### DISCOVER THE FREEDOM OF CORDLESS PHONES

SAVE UP TO £30 ON CORDLESS PHONES

BT  
FREESTYLE 120  
CORDLESS PHONE  
• 8 channel selection for improved reception.  
• 10 number memory.  
• Intercom facility.  
• Backlit keypad.  
Dixons Deal  
£89.99

SOUTHWESTERN  
F1000  
CORDLESS PHONE WITH ANSWERING MACHINE  
• 8 channel operation.  
• Up to 5 days standby time.  
• Remote access.  
• Memo recording facility.  
Was £129.99  
Dixons Deal  
£99.99

BT  
FREESTYLE 220  
CORDLESS PHONE  
• LCD display, a intercom facility.  
• Overhead styling.  
• Multi-handset facility - The option of up to 4 handsets.  
• A telephone socket is required for a telephone socket.  
Dixons Deal  
£99.99

SHARP CL-D250  
CORDLESS HANDSET AND SPEAKER PHONE  
• 8 channel auto-selection.  
• LCD display, a intercom facility.  
• Overhead styling.  
• Multi-handset facility - The option of up to 4 handsets.  
• A telephone socket is required for a telephone socket.  
Larger stores  
Dixons Deal  
£139.99

BT PHONE SERVICES  
Make the most of your phone with these services from BT - with big savings when you select a 4-year rental package!

BT CALL MINDER  
Takes messages for you, whether you're away from your phone or busy on another call. Ideal for home business.  
Used price over 4 years £24.95  
Dixons Deal  
£49.99

BT CALL WAITING  
Makes sure you never miss another call, by indicating to you when another caller is waiting to speak to you.  
Used price over 4 years £54.95  
Dixons Deal  
£39.99

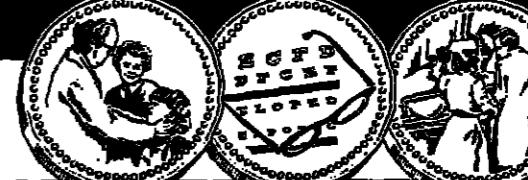
BT  
FREESTYLE 80  
CORDLESS PHONE  
• Switches channels automatically for improved reception.  
• 10 number memory.  
• Out of range warning.  
• Paging facility.

Dixons Deal  
£79.99

## Dixons

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Which healthcare plan offers you **more** for your money?



Legal & General  
Lifetime HealthCare Plan

Typical cost  
£12 - £20  
a month\*

#### PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE

Typically, cover for in-patient hospital care and some associated treatments/services.

£10.34 a month\* and includes:

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE:  
Full cover for all in-patient hospital treatment and cover for some associated services.

PLUS

#### UP TO £500 HEALTH CASH A YEAR†

An annually replenished fund to pay towards health treatments including dental, optical and other healthcare expenses.

PLUS

#### LUMP SUM DISABILITY AND DEATH COVER†

Up to £5000 for accidental injury and up to £6000 for accidental death.

\* Not available for persons over 60

For more details and the option of immediate cover call us free on

0800 560 560

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

PLEASE QUOTE REF AD0170

Lifetime HealthCare

Excellent value... at every stage of your life.

Legal & General

\*Single person aged 24

To: Legal & General - HealthCare, FREEPOST BT7347, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1BR.

YES I want to know more about this new personal healthcare plan

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ (MR/MRS/MSS/Ms)

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Additional persons to be covered

Adult Partner (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children under age 18 \_\_\_\_\_

We may telephone you to make sure that the information you have supplied has not changed. Now and then, we will also let you about other products or services offered within the Legal & General Group, that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this monthly newsletter, please tick here

AD0170

# Assad snub jeopardises peace effort by America

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MARK HUBAND IN CAIRO

IN A diplomatic snub that has cast a shadow over efforts to end the fighting across Israel's northern border, President Assad yesterday refused to meet Warren Christopher on his arrival in Damascus for an American peace plan.

An embarrassed State Department official said that when the Secretary of State returned from Jerusalem with Israeli reactions to the single-page peace blueprint for a meeting with the Syrian leader, regarded as a key player in any negotiated ceasefire, he was told by Farouk al-Shara, the Foreign Minister, that Mr Assad was "not available".

The snub came after reports of friction between the American and Syrian diplomatic teams and anger from Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, who returned to Moscow claiming that the Americans were attempting to freeze out all other international initiatives aimed at halting Operation Grapes of Wrath, the military offensive inside Lebanon.

## DIPLOMACY

There was speculation among Western diplomats that Mr Assad, a notoriously inscrutable leader renowned for his tough negotiating methods, may have been showing displeasure at Washington's perceived closeness to the Israeli position. This has been graphically illustrated in Israel, where many Israelis are flying the American Stars and Stripes alongside Israeli flags to mark today's 48th anniversary of the foundation of the Jewish state.

According to Nicholas Burns, a State Department spokesman, Mr Christopher — already looking weary after his four days of intensive shuttle diplomacy — was travelling from Damascus airport with the Syrian Foreign Minister when he was informed that the crucial scheduled meeting with Mr Assad had been scrapped. Mr Christopher remained for only two and a half hours in Syria



Mr Peres, surrounded by security officers, one videotaping crowds, arrives for a Memorial Day service at a Jerusalem cemetery yesterday

before returning to Jerusalem, where he had earlier held two meetings with Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister.

American peace efforts suffered another blow last night when two Egyptian Islamic groups announced in Cairo that they would start to kidnap Americans in Egypt and would bomb and sabotage American and Israeli interests around the world. President Assad's ascendancy has over-

shadowed the influence of Egypt, the key American ally in the Middle East peace process. Fallout from the Israeli raids has forced a wedge in the activities of militant Egyptian Islamic groups, whose long-standing opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian deal has gained ground with every Israeli shell fired into Lebanon.

Israeli diplomats in Arab states which have Israeli dip-

lomatic delegations — Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt — have privately acknowledged that the death toll among Lebanese civilians has forced a wedge between the populations of "friendly" Arab states and Israel.

As the diplomatic moves faltered, both Israel and Hezbollah kept up their offensives yesterday, a day of high emotion in Israel as sirens marked a two-minute

silence for the 18,211 citizens who have fallen so far in the wars fought against the Arabs since 1948. Some Katayushas thudded into the beleaguered and almost deserted Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona, damaging a factory.

In Washington, it was confirmed last night that the Clinton Administration would discuss ways to improve Israeli defences against missile attacks when Mr Peres arrives

for a three-day visit on Sunday.

■ Geneva: The UN Human Rights Commission condemned Israeli attacks, by adopting a resolution backed by Britain and other European Union states. Fifty countries, including Russia, voted for the resolution, which censured repeated Israeli aggression in Lebanon.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

## Israel warned to guard its identity

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE latest edition of the popular magazine *Jerusalem Report*, published to coincide with the celebration today of the 48th anniversary of Israel's independence, depicts Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, dialling from his mobile telephone from the balcony of a skyscraper.

The cover encapsulates the changes in lifestyle which have affected the Jewish state since its foundation under David Ben-Gurion in 1948, and its transformation from a would-be home of socialist egalitarianism to the brashest centre of free-market capitalism in the Middle East.

Dress is no longer typified by open shirts and sandals.

## LIFESTYLE

while the kibbutz is a founder and debt-ridden institution, Israelis are among the world's top per-capita users of home computers and of mobile phones. With around 600,000 subscribers, or 12 per cent of the population, rates have been introduced barring their use in the army and in synagogues.

"Israelis have an insatiable appetite for new things," said David Tamir, a Tel Aviv advertising executive. "And they have always been open to technical innovations."

So rapid has been the change that President Weizman — whose uncle, Chaim, was the first President

of a state then renowned for its austerity — has recently issued a warning that the so-called "Americanisation" of Israel could affect its national identity. He advised Israelis to "beware of McDonald's and Michael Jackson".

Within the past year branches of such American brand leaders as Blockbuster Video, Tower Records, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and even a non-kosher McDonald's have opened within a 500-yard radius of The Times Jerusalem bureau. A little further away the area around Holy Trinity Orthodox Russian Church contains at least 20 cafés, nightclubs and restaurants where the music throbs late into the night, even on the Jewish Sabbath when

about 40 per cent of adult Israelis now holiday abroad every year, and humous and pita bread are giving way to fettuccini washed down with a glass of more than passable Golan chardonnay.

Previously all but a handful of restaurants were shut.

One of the main reasons for the transformation is that Israel is today among the world's rich nations. The per capita income is £10,250 a year, just below that of Britain and ahead of Spain's. Comparisons have been made with Asian "Tiger" economies like Taiwan and, despite regional tension, there are now more hi-tech companies from Israel quoted on Wall Street than from any other foreign country except Canada.

About 40 per cent of adult Israelis now holiday abroad every year, and humous and pita bread are giving way to fettuccini washed down with a glass of more than passable Golan chardonnay.

previously all but a handful of restaurants were shut.

One of the main reasons for the transformation is that Israel is today among the world's rich nations. The per capita income is £10,250 a year, just below that of Britain and ahead of Spain's. Comparisons have been made with Asian "Tiger" economies like Taiwan and, despite regional tension, there are now more hi-tech companies from Israel quoted on Wall Street than from any other foreign country except Canada.

About 40 per cent of adult Israelis now holiday abroad every year, and humous and pita bread are giving way to fettuccini washed down with a glass of more than passable Golan chardonnay.

## General killed in gunfight with hotel terror suspects

FROM LAURI NEFF  
IN CAIRO

SEVEN people died yesterday in a shootout between police and two men suspected of last week's massacre of Greek tourists near Cairo. A search for two other suspects is continuing.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry said two Islamic militants and five policemen, including a general and two other senior officers, were killed in the shooting as police approached a hideout in southern Egypt.

Seventeen Greek tourists and an Egyptian parking attendant died when four gun-

men opened fire on them at the Europa Hotel, near the Great Pyramid of Giza last Thursday. The Muslim militant group, Gamma al-Islamiya, claimed responsibility for the raid. In a statement, the group said the intended targets of the raid had been Israeli tourists, and it was to avenge Israel's bombardment of Lebanon.

The extremists claimed Egyptian security officials had switched a group of Israelis with the Greek pilgrims at the last minute.

The government-owned Al-

Ahram newspaper this week reported that Egyptian security forces had rounded up 1,500 suspects since the attack and had come up with a detailed description of the attackers.

Hassan al-Alfy, the Interior Minister, last night demoted the head of the tourist police and the chief of security in Giza. He also ordered an internal review of 13 policemen who were supposed to have safeguarded the area around the Europa Hotel.

The extremists claimed Egyptian security officials had switched a group of Israelis with the Greek pilgrims at the last minute.

The government-owned Al-

## Tyson told to avoid strip clubs

New York: Probation officers have ordered the heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to lead a clean life (Quentin Letts writes). He has been told to stay away from bars and nightclubs — particularly of the strip joint variety.

The order follows an alleged incident this month in a Chicago disco called the Clique, where a woman claimed to have had her cheek chewed by Mr Tyson.

He has denied the claim, but the allegation evidently worried officers in charge of his probation for a 1992 rape conviction.

## Unmanned US spy plane crashes

Los Angeles: A prototype of America's latest unmanned spy plane has crashed on take-off at California's Edwards air force base, raising doubts about stringent cost-cutting in the Pentagon's research and development programmes (Giles Whittell writes). The futuristic flying wing carrying a saucer-shaped body was one of a handful of "Darkstar" drones designed to provide high-altitude reconnaissance.

## British threat on landmines

London: Britain intends to replace some of its standard anti-personnel landmines with a new generation of "smart" weapons, unless a global ban on the manufacture and use of all mines is agreed. (Michael Evans writes). Labour denounced the announcement, made in the Commons, as "a dangerous sham and empty rhetoric".

## 46 Kurds killed in Turkish clash

Diyarbakir: At least 46 Kurdish guerrillas and five Turkish soldiers have been killed in a clash in eastern Turkey. Troops, supported by aircraft, have been pursuing a three-week offensive in the area. In a separate incident, rebels killed three teachers in an attack on their homes. (AP)

**MASTERCARD**

**ERIC CLAPTON**  
AND HIS BAND

**BOB DYLAN**  
AND HIS BAND

**ALANIS MORISSETTE**

**FOR THE PRINCE'S TRUST**

**SATURDAY 29 JUNE 1996**  
**AT HYDE PARK, LONDON**

Gates open 12.30pm

TICKETS £8.00 (SUBJECT TO BOOKING FEE)  
MAXIMUM 6 TICKETS PER PERSON

ON SALE EXCLUSIVELY TO MASTERCARD CARD HOLDERS NOW CALL: 0990 22 66 88

ON GENERAL SALE FROM FRIDAY 26TH APRIL

FOR RESERVED SEATING WITH HOSPITALITY CALL: 0171 491 7625

PRODUCED BY HARVEY GOLDSMITH ENTERTAINMENTS FOR NATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Every language speaks MasterCard... Every language speaks music

**Viglen**  
YOU'LL NEVER LOOK BACK

**The New Viglen Dossier CD**  
**Multimedia power on the move.**

Several years ago, Viglen was one of the first companies to introduce a notebook sized PC. Since then we have been continuously developing our Dossier range of notebook PCs to take advantage of all the advances provided by the latest leading edge technologies.

Once again, the new Viglen Dossier CD with the Intel Pentium® processor inside combines this high end technology with a specification packed with features not found in many other systems to bring you one of the most advanced notebook PCs of its kind. Features such as an internal quad speed CD ROM and an internal 3.5" floppy drive together, multimedia stereo sound built in to speakers, an advanced high tech trackpad pointing device, a standard Duracell smart notebook battery, high resolution colour screen, two PCMCIA/PC Card sockets (useable simultaneously), and many more.

The Dossier CD is in fact a fully featured Multimedia PC on the move. It's no wonder we think it's going places...and remember with Viglen you'll never look back.

**SPECIFICATION**

- Intel Pentium® Processor 75MHz, 100MHz, 120MHz or 133MHz (CPU upgradeable)
- 8MB on board upgradable to 40MB
- 540MHz 1.2GB removable HD (much higher in future)
- FAT32 file power management
- 3.6kg, 295mmx232mmx54.5mm
- Carrying bag
- Microsoft® Windows® 95
- Microsoft Word® 95 pre-installed and ready to run
- 12 months parts and labour collect and return warranty. Low cost on-site option for up to 5 years
- Free lifetime online technical support
- Option for competitive application bundles

**FEATURES**

- Two SVGA 600x400, 256 colours colour screen options available, 11.3" Dual Scan CRT, 10.4" TFT
- Built in Trackpad pointing device
- Built in LCD Status Display
- Built in Microphone
- Tilt mechanism for a more comfortable lying position
- Multimedia Stereo Sound Speakers plus jack sockets for line-in, external speaker and microphone
- One type II and type III PCMCIA/PC Card sockets
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Palm rest for ergonomic lying
- Infrared 10A Communications Port
- Removable Hard Drive
- Standard Duracell NH48 SMART battery
- Internal Quad Speed CD ROM and floppy both drives together are not normally available on many other brand name notebooks

**BEST**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**GOOD**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**PLAY**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**CD ROM**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**IDE**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**PC**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**CCPU**  
What to buy for Business  
What to buy for Home  
Viglen Dossier CD available

**Intel Inside**  
Pentium

**Viglen**  
YOU'LL NEVER LOOK BACK

Tel 0181 758 7000  
Fax 0181 758 7080

Viglen Limited, Viglen House, Alperton Lane, Alperton, Middlesex HA9 1DX.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND YOUR FREE COPY OF THE VIGLEN DIRECT GUIDE PHONE OR RETURN THE COUPON

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Please send me more information on the Viglen range of personal computers  
Business/Education use \_\_\_\_\_ Home Personal use \_\_\_\_\_  
NHS/MTB \_\_\_\_\_

Dossier and Viglen are trademarks of Viglen Limited. Microsoft, MS-DOS, Windows 95 and the Microsoft Ready to Run logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged.

Clinton cards E hits luc

Every language speaks MasterCard... Every language speaks music

# Clinton plays his cards right and hits lucky streak

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IT TOOK President Clinton ten hours to fly 5,180 miles home from Moscow on Sunday night, but he did not exactly devote that time to pressing affairs of state.

The world's most powerful man spent virtually the entire flight playing cards with Leon Panetta, his Chief of Staff, and other White House aides. He was so engrossed in the game that he remained on Air Force One several minutes after it finally landed at Andrews air force base.

Mr Clinton does not do things by halves. He eats voraciously, plays golf obsessively, and usually has two or three books on the go at once. His appetite for politics is insatiable. So his foes contend, is his appetite for women, but cards are his other great passion.

He played cards endlessly in New Hampshire during the dark days of January and February 1992, when his presidential campaign seemed

doomed by charges of adultery and draft evasion. Later, when the campaign was fizzing, he would arrive at hotels in the small hours of the morning and drag exhausted aides into card games to unwind.

He played cards with the Gores on their campaign bus.

He played cards relentlessly during that final 30-hour non-stop campaign trip across America when his voice gave out, and he continued playing for relaxation after reaching the Oval Office. *Newsweek* reporters who spent a week at the White House said the President "seemed most in his element when he was watching two televisions, conducting three conversations, playing cards and eating — all at once".

Last November Mr Clinton's obsession with cards actually contributed to the Government's shutdown. Newt Gingrich refused a budgetary compromise with Mr

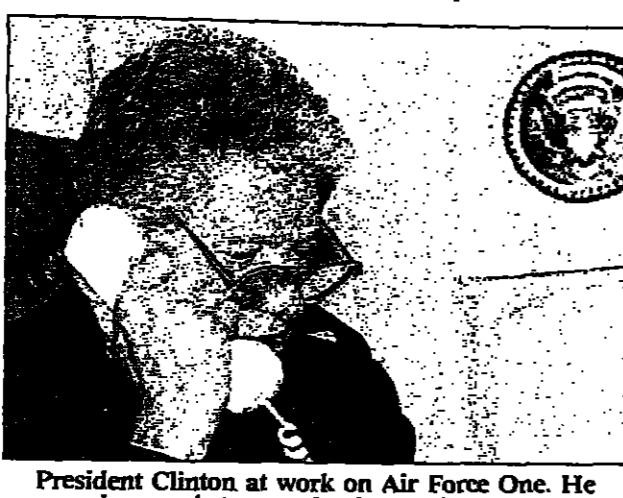
Clinton because, he complained, the President had snubbed him during the long flight back from the funeral of the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. It turned out that Mr Clinton had spent much of the flight playing cards with the publisher of the *New York Daily News*.

Mr Clinton does not play bridge — Eisenhower was America's first and only White House bridge enthusiast. He sometimes plays pinochle with Chelsea in the evening, but his favourite game is Hearts, at which he is an expert.

"I think the deck was stacked. It was a deck from Air Force One and I just didn't get a look at it first," complained Roy Romer, Colorado's Governor, after a recent flight with the President.

Mr Clinton is continuing a fine tradition of card-playing Presidents. George Washington played for money and kept records of his winnings and losses. Thomas Jefferson played cards to relax during the drafting of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Truman and Churchill played poker as they travelled by train to Fulton, Missouri, for Churchill's "Iron Curtain speech" in 1946.

Nixon was another avid poker player who allegedly financed his 1946 congressional campaign with his winnings from the Navy. His game evidently deteriorated when he reached the White House. "Any guy who hollers over a \$40 pot has no business being President," Tip O'Neill, the former House Speaker, once retorted when Nixon complained of his losses.



President Clinton at work on Air Force One. He plays cards to pass the time on long trips



Tobacco buyers examine some of the crop on sale at the opening of the auction season in Harare yesterday

## Race threat to Zimbabwe tobacco barons

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S tobacco crop, worth about £475 million this year, has become a racial battleground between the predominantly white establishment that has dominated the industry for decades and a group of militant black businessmen trying to seize control of the lucrative trade.

When the five-month selling season opened yesterday on Harare's auction floors, Peter Richards, president of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association, which represents the estimated 2,000 growers, gave a warning of "disruption" to the industry.

Zimbabwe is the world's biggest exporter of tobacco

for newspaper advertisements which vilify whites and "Uncle Tom" blacks. One features a giant python crushing a crocodile, and carries a warning that this is what will happen to whites in the drive to "clean our society once and for all".

Mr Boka began alarming the tobacco mandarins two weeks ago with the announcement that he proposed buying the entire 1996 crop by tender, which would allow him to hold cigarette manufacturers virtually to ransom. He then outlined plans to build the world's largest tobacco auction floor near the capital.

This week he announced

that he had managed to get the black-dominated tobacco regulating body to refuse to grant a buying licence to a new merchant company, because it was white-run, and denounced Denis Norman, the Agriculture Minister and the longest-serving white in Mr Mugabe's Cabinet, for having "a hidden agenda which seeks to promote white supremacy".

"He cannot be disregarded as a loony," a Western diplomat said. "He is immensely wealthy and politically connected. Change the word white to Jew, and it is indistinguishable from Nazi propaganda."

The Chief Election Commissioner has been imposed by T.N. Seshan, the Chief Election Commissioner, who gave a warning that candidates who exceeded modest new election spending limits would have their victories revoked. A man true to his threats, Mr Seshan is moving about the country looking for displays of money power, which are astonishingly few. That explains why there has been no bloodshed: riots, often used as election tools, are expensive to instigate.

The Chief Election Commissioner has even frowned on graffiti. This comes particularly hard at the Communists of Calcutta, who have fought many violent graffiti wars with rival parties and turned their city into the world's graffiti capital. The party now seeks permission before daubing somebody's wall. "We have to be careful of Seshan," a party official said.

The commissioner, who regards his work as a crusade, lamented, in a book entitled *The Degeneration of India*: "Successive governments have sought to reduce elections to a farce. Every party has been involved in despoiling the system. The decline of politics and politicians in India is visible, vaster and violent."

To level the political playing field, he has even ordered candidates not to use state helicopters for electioneering. He rejected complaints from senior politicians that travelling by road was a security risk, forcing them to enter the rural backwaters by road, which for many has been a rare experience.

## Nigeria sanctions to be tightened

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A COMMONWEALTH task force agreed yesterday to tighten sanctions to make Nigeria a pariah state until General Sani Abacha's military Government shows greater respect for human rights and accelerates its timetable for a return to democracy.

All Commonwealth countries will be asked to ban air links, freeze the assets of junta members, and introduce a visa policy denying entry to any member of the Nigerian military Government and its civilian supporters. Commonwealth countries will also ban sporting links, downgrade diplomatic representation and discourage cultural contacts. Britain voted an oil ban which would have deprived Nigeria of 90 per cent of its foreign earnings.

The task force also agreed to break off the Commonwealth



Mr Keating, not a strict observer of protocol, puts an arm round the Queen while greeting the royal visitor to Australia in 1992

dialogue with Nigeria that accompanied the sanctions voted last autumn in retaliation for the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists from the Ogoni tribe. General Abacha has refused to receive a Commonwealth delegation, and the eight ministers decided yesterday that there was no point attempting to arrange a meeting.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking Nigerian delegation left yesterday for China to discuss broadening relations and sign bilateral agreements.

## CAR INSURANCE

Looking for the  
LOWEST  
premium?

PHONE  
FREE  
**0500  
333  
600**

TO CLAIM  
YOUR FREE  
ROAD ATLAS  
PLEASE QUOTE  
REF 7001  
LINES ARE OPEN  
8am-8pm WEEKDAYS,  
8am-5pm SATURDAYS.  
DIAL DIRECT

ATLAS  
Exclusive Road Atlas  
**FREE**  
with every quote

Backed by one of the UK's leading insurers covering over 10 million motorists

Did Direct Insurance Management Ltd  
is a subsidiary of the National Provincial and General Corporation Ltd.

Not available in Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands

## Unabomber suspect revels in pleasures of prison

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

JAIL seems to be suiting Theodore Kaczynski, the former mathematics don and woodland hermit suspected of being the deadly Unabomber. While awaiting trial he has settled comfortably into his cell at Lewis and Clark County prison, Montana. In fact, he thinks the place just grand.

Mr Kaczynski, arrested two weeks ago at his remote, hand-built cabin, has pronounced himself most satisfied with the jail food. The nourishing menus of, for instance, turkey noodle casserole, the occasional roast, and perhaps a sinful slice of pecan pie.

have been an improvement on the "wild porcupine and turnips" diet on which he subsisted as a free man.

The plates have been wiped spotless, and guards have been asked to convey Mr Kaczynski's compliments to the good ladies in the kitchens of the nearby Cooney Convalescent Home, where the prison virtuals are cooked.

Awakening in prison is more agreeable than it was in the wilds of Montana, where dawn rose cold with the snarl of a cougar at the door and no prospect of running water. Mr Kaczynski can now take a hot shower before settling down to breakfast of muesli, toast and milky coffee.

The once penniless eccentric can

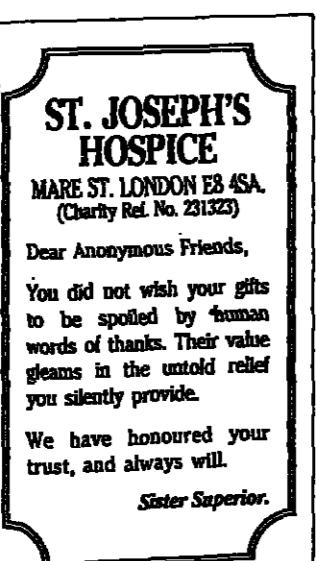
ponder how best to spend his weekly pocket money of \$20 (£13) — probably on snacks at the prison tuckshop, supplied by Jolly O's Gas & Go convenience store. They taste better than cold rabbit bones.

The former university teacher spends his days reading books from the prison's 700-volume library and penning his thoughts. Charlie Carson, a bail bondsman who visited Mr Kaczynski in his cell, said: "He's not pacing. He's reading or writing. He's a mellow dude." In the afternoon, if feeling stale, he can take a jog in the prison yard.

Guards have found America's most

and the suspected mass bomber has spruced himself up with a haircut and beard-trim, plus a new set of clothes. On arrival at the jail he stank like a raccoon, but the ripe, torn jeans and bandanas have been swapped for a sports jacket, denim shirt and Chinos trousers.

On the legal front, things may look grim as federal investigators prepare to charge him for the bombing campaign which lasted for 18 years and killed three people. But, as far as his daily routine goes, Mr Kaczynski is finding that after years of existing in an unheated, unplumbed 10ft by 12ft country cabin, life in a 8ft by 10ft, heated, clean prison cell is a cinch.



Sister Superior.

The new Audi A4 Avant. Drive one, and you'll never drive an estate.

Conventionally, estate cars are functional but rather dull load-luggers. That's why the new Audi A4 Avant isn't one. For more information, please call 0345 998677.

Umpire in Indian poll sees off thugs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN LUCKNOW

A LOW-KEY Indian general election campaign moves quietly towards the first day of voting this week, watched over with evident satisfaction by a lone bureaucrat who has terrorised the politicians into uncommonly good behaviour.

There have been no riots, violent processions or murders of candidates. There are no blaring public address systems, no cavalcades, few banners and posters. Nor is there any obvious vote-buying. Freelance gangs of goondas, or thugs, who traditionally menace the electorate in marginal seats, have found themselves unemployed.

There has not been an Indian election like it. Indeed, many of India's millions of voters are not even sure there is an election, given the absence of rowdiness. Slum dwellers, vital to a politician's fortunes, are even finding it hard to extract the usual pre-election cheap liquor from money-strapped candidates.

The politicians' restraint has been imposed by T.N. Seshan, the Chief Election Commissioner, who gave a warning that candidates who exceeded modest new election spending limits would have their victories revoked. A man true to his threats, Mr Seshan is moving about the country looking for displays of money power, which are astonishingly few. That explains why there has been no bloodshed: riots, often used as election tools, are expensive to instigate.

The Chief Election Commissioner has even frowned on graffiti. This comes particularly hard at the Communists of Calcutta, who have fought many violent graffiti wars with rival parties and turned their city into the world's graffiti capital. The party now seeks permission before daubing somebody's wall. "We have to be careful of Seshan," a party official said.

The commissioner, who regards his work as a crusade, lamented, in a book entitled *The Degeneration of India*: "Successive governments have sought to reduce elections to a farce. Every party has been involved in despoiling the system. The decline of politics and politicians in India is visible, vaster and violent."

To level the political playing field, he has even ordered candidates not to use state helicopters for electioneering. He rejected complaints from senior politicians that travelling by road was a security risk, forcing them to enter the rural backwaters by road, which for many has been a rare experience.

# The maxi-skirt's back, long and lean

Skirts are skimming the ankles again, but without a flounce or frill in sight — these are plain and simple, in light, fresh fabrics

*Fashion journalist of the year*



IAIN R. WEBB

I GUESS it had to happen. As tops began to shrink to minuscule proportions it was almost inevitable that the skirt would eventually get longer... and longer. This summer sees the return of the ankle-skimming skirt as designers revisit the 1970s, when the maxi-skirt last reigned supreme.

However, this time around the look is nothing like the hippy-trippy image of yesteryear. There are no droopy hemlines, no chunky-print cheesecloth or flouncy gypsy frills. Instead the new-look 1990s maxi-skirt follows an understated outline which matches perfectly fashion's predilection for all things minimal. It heralds a new spartan elegance which makes much of plain and simple, a taste of the long, lean uncluttered silhouette which designers recently previewed in their autumn/winter collections.

"The long skirt is a refreshing alternative to the more tailored look that has been fashionable of late," says Kim Stringer, associate fashion and beauty director of *Elle*. "It looks great worn with strappy sandals or flat pumps."

The longer length comes in two main silhouettes. Designer Helmut Lang in Paris cuts a straight tube skirt in white lace which stops just short of the ankle, while in Milan Gucci favours an A-line shape in slinky jersey. Other designers worked on the same theme: Dolce & Gabbana, Trussardi, Donna Karan, Aly Capellino, Alberta Ferretti, MaxMara, Prada, Jean Paul Gaultier and Gianfranco Ferré all feature their own version in their collections. Lightweight fabrics which move easily are essential. The look is pretty at Ferretti (pale printed organza layers) and practical at DKNY (a stretch tube which packs away to almost nothing for that summer holiday).

Stringer points out that although the new longer hemline may hide the leg, it switches emphasis to the feet. Open-toe and strappy summer shoes reveal the flesh, so a pedicure at the beginning of the summer is essential, and watch out for pasty-looking flesh which has been hidden away through the winter. "Try spray-on tans," says Stringer. She recommends Estée Lauder's Supertan as one of the best.

If you don't have the time or inclination to try a fake tan, foundation-coloured tights which look as though your legs have been perfectly made-up are useful. Cosmetics for Legs by Sock Shop are effective and inexpensive.

The hippest stylists proffer brightly coloured tights including red, blue and orange, but the look is extreme and rarely works off the catwalk or page. And don't forget that a long skirt brings its own lifestyle problems. "Remember to pick up a handful of fabric when getting on the bus," says Stringer.



ABOVE LEFT: Long black rayon skirt, £195; black rayon shirt, £560; thin belt, £55; black T-bar sandals, £130; Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street, W1; 17-18 Sloane Street (0171-499 1081). Silver choker, £202, Jacqueline Rabun; Jess James, 3 Newburgh Street, W1 (0171-221 9820).

ABOVE CENTRE: Black rayon shirt, £45, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-580 2507). White knitted viscose skirt, £185, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-629 4774). White buckle sandals, £210, Sergio Rossi, 12 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-225 0663).

ABOVE RIGHT: White marocain satin bodice, £49.95, Jigsaw stores nationwide. Navy rayon jersey skirt, £25, Whistles, 27 Sloane Square, SW1 and stores nationwide (0171-730 9819). T-bar sandals, £265 to order, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932). Silver arm bracelet, £216, Jacqueline Rabun, as above.

LEFT: Cream knitted viscose vest, £125, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-629 4774). Black viscose skirt, £25, French Connection, as above. Black grosgrain ribbon sandals, £235, Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church Street, SW3 (0171-352 8622). Silver choker, £202, Jacqueline Rabun, as above.

Photographs by CHRIS CRAYMER  
Make-up by Kim Jacob, hair by Robert Morrison,  
stylist Tracey Jacob

## From April you must get into this routine

Jump to it, the first Self Assessment tax year starts on 6th April 1996. From then on, if you usually receive a tax return form, you'll need to make a record of your income and expenses.

### What records do you need to keep.....?

They include bank and building society statements, dividend vouchers, business earnings and receipts, payments to employees or sub-contractors, cashbooks and any other documents that could relate to your tax.

### How to avoid penalties.....?

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will mean you avoid interest and penalties.

### Read the leaflet in your next tax return.....

Find out more by reading the special leaflet included with your next tax return.

Alternatively, for free information guides, just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime (all calls are charged at the local rate.)

0345 16 15 14  
http://www.open.gov.uk/income/leaf.htm  
24hr.....24hr.....24hr.....24hr.....

Revenue

Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are:  
Self-employed  Employed  A Pensioner  Seeking work

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: SELF ASSESSMENT PO BOX 555 BRISTOL BS99 5UJ

Self Assessment - a clearer tax system



### BEST MAXI-SKIRT BUYS

- 1 White lace A-line skirt, £110, Whistles, 27 Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 9819).
- 2 Black viscose jersey, £45, House of Fraser, selected branches nationwide (0171-963 2000).
- 3 Long black satin skirt with side split, £460, Yves Saint Laurent, 33 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6706).
- 4 Black cotton jersey skirt, £39.99, Morgan, selected branches nationwide (0171-436 5255).
- 5 Black lace A-line skirt, £27.99, Top Shop, selected branches nationwide (0171-291 2351).
- 6 Cream fine knitted skirt, £180, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-629 4774).
- 7 Chocolate brown A-line organza skirt, £180, MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-287 3434).
- 8 White fine cotton skirt, £27.50, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422).
- 9 White linen button-back skirt, £125, Margaret Howell, 29 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-584 2462).
- 10 Black jersey hipster skirt, £27.99, Top Shop, as above.
- 11 Red shiny hipster wrap skirt, £125, Joseph, as above.
- 12 Cream open-weave bias-cut skirt, £73, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, W1 and selected branches nationwide (0181-875 8443).
- 13 Black button-through ankle-length skirt, £795, Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 5040).
- 14 Black crêpe skirt with side split, £109, Agnes B, 58-62 Heath Street, NW3 (0171-431 9955).
- 15 Long zip-fronted white neoprene skirt, £290, Iceberg, 82 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-225 0515).
- 16 Navy marocain satin zip split skirt, £77, Jigsaw, as above.

## ARTIGIANO by mail



ITALIAN  
style

The da

Wise  
to the  
benefits  
of private  
healthcare

And receive your  
free guide to "Your Health  
Private Medical Insurance  
when you call for a free  
Call now on

0800  
28282

Guardian  
Daily  
Private  
Medical  
Insurance

ARDIAN DIREC



# Goldsmith, Redwood and a blue funk

Michael Gove on Tory dismay at a tycoon's protest party

You can see it in their skin. There was a wan quality, a greyness perhaps, in the faces of the Cabinet ministers who were struggling on Monday, as they have so often over the past four years, to find, hold and sell a line on Europe which would satisfy both their party and their EU partners. By contrast, there is a sheen, almost a glow, in the demeanour of the two men who have been making the real running in Conservative politics this week.

Sir James Goldsmith and John Redwood have an air of confidence which springs from a sense that they are shaping events more successfully than those burdened with office. They are convinced that the inchoate but persistent dissatisfaction of former Tory supporters has coalesced into frustration with Europe. The anger ignited first by the exchange-rate mechanism has been kindled by fish and fanned by beef.

Bolstered by Monday's events, each is now, in his own way, causing turbulence in a party already off-balance and destined to see hundreds of its councillors cull a week tomorrow. They meet today, ostensibly to see if Mr Redwood can persuade Sir James not to unleash his billionaire boys' club of candidates against the Tories at the next election. Mr Redwood knows there is nothing he could broker on the Prime Minister's behalf that will buy off Sir James before the election, but eyes are fixed on a further horizon and another election.

On Monday Mr Redwood relaxed with supporters at a Dartmouth House reception. Aptly enough for a Eurosceptic gathering on the eve of St George's Day, the Mayfair club is the home of the English-speaking Union. There was much to celebrate. Mr Redwood has been lobbying before breakfast, lunch and tea. Over the past few days, the case against the current Conservative leadership and for a more robust Toryism has been made in a series of editorials: one which particularly alarmed the Government came from its loyalist "house journal", *The Daily Telegraph*, last Wednesday. Several editors, including the *Telegraph's* Charles Moore, have enjoyed the attentions of a witty, confident and liberated Redwood.

There may be something Heseltinian about Mr Redwood's energy, but in his determination to push a divided Government in a more nationalist direction, Mr Redwood recalls another resigner: Joe Chamberlain. It is hard for Mr Redwood, or those influenced by him, to believe that the Major Government will suddenly change its spots and risk Cabinet unity by offering new policies or referendums. Their gaze is now on the leadership battle following a Tory defeat. Mr Redwood's sentiments have found an increasingly receptive hearing from Centre-Right MPs hitherto loyal to the Government. Mr Redwood's think-tank, the Conservative 2000 Foundation has published a series of pamphlets by neglected backbenchers. This has not done Mr Redwood any harm among his colleagues.

Mr Redwood's attempt,

however earnest, to persuade Sir James to back down will also secure the goodwill of colleagues who see the Union Jack in which they were about to drape themselves snatched away by Goldsmith. A Tory backbencher says his colleagues are "in a blue funk" at the thought of former Tory voters, unwilling to back Blair and encouraged by *The Sun*, registering a "patriotic" protest by voting for the Anglo-French insurgents.

Central Office is trying to reassure MPs that the Goldsmith threat is a phantom. It argues that there will be no significant defections or endorsements for the Referendum Party in the next few months, and that at the election, voters will make hard-headed calculations about taxes and jobs instead of falling for the lion-hearted rhetoric of Sir James's single-issue campaign.

But several Tories take a bleaker view. For good or ill, they believe Europe will not drift into the background, but that the resentments of farmers and fishermen at government attitudes will linger and undermine the Conservative claim that Labour is the lapdog of Brussels. Backbench sceptics argue that even the Social Chapter option will look threathen after November, when the Working Time Directive should become British law, following a judgment in the European Court. With past battle honours tattered, the Tories will not be in a strong position to see off an increasingly self-confident Sir James.

Sir James has this week been entertaining more journalists at the Dorchester and his lieutenants at Wiltons, the fish and game restaurant favoured by clubbier Conservatives. The style of his progress through these society salons might suggest that Sir James is a political gentleman who will be outclassed come the election by the professionals, but that would be to underestimate him grievously. He has secured spacious Westminster offices — currently being fitted out as a campaign "war-room" — and has several hired guns with election experience to plot his strategy. The lack of established names comforts some Tories, but he views it as an asset. A populist crusade against politics-as-normal is better off without normal politicians.

Given Britain's electoral system, Sir James will not secure a single seat, but his intervention could have a resonant — and significant — effect. His campaign is calculated to attract the votes of disaffected Tories, and given his strategy of sparing sceptical MPs, pro-Europeans with small majorities (such as Edwin Currie) will be the most obvious targets. Sir James's intervention will have magnified a trend which John Redwood has already anticipated: the emergence of an overwhelmingly Eurosceptic Tory party. In defeat, such a party would be restless. Mr Redwood is realistic enough to have seen where such a party might look. Whatever happens today, it is unlikely that Mr Redwood will leave his meeting with Sir James looking downcast.



Alan Coren

I know it's you, but who can tell me which you are?

I will, I think, be generally accepted that should you fortuitously bump into the Duke of Edinburgh, at say, some charity hop, short, stout, God, fancy meeting you there, turn to your wife, and cry: "Darling, I don't think you know Reg Grout, assistant manager of the Cleethorpes Magician, 'joy' would cause. Nor would matters be any happier if you merely stood there, eyes narrowed, and muttered: 'Don't tell me, it's on the tip of my tongue. I never forget a face, was it the Boys' Brigade?'

Yet it happens all the time. Identification is the constant bugbear of social intercourse — and unless grim is its constant threat, that word in the bud of every pleasurable prospect, that dread, even as you step out for a jolly party, of what you are likely to step into. You will gush at meeting for the first time someone you have frequently met, you will exclaim how wonderful it is to meet again someone you have never met before, you will inquire after the welfare of crumpled husbands and of wives who have long since run off with their aromatherapists, you will ask surgeons how things are in the retail fruit business these days, tell fund managers how much you enjoyed their latest novel, and, murmur, to your host's mother that if she thinks the food is bad, just wait till she tastes the fish he calls, *wine-ha-ha*, haven't I seen you on *Newsnight*, you look so familiar, or was it down Kricklewood Kebabs?

So is there nothing to be done? Are we all doomed to age even more forgetfully, simultaneously accumulating more people and losing more brain cells until the former outnumber the latter, and we don't go out at all, lest someone ask us who we are and we cannot remember even that? Well, no, not if the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is to be believed (a provision you should keep in a safe place, given that you may wish to come back to it before we're done) because on Monday, that fine academy announced nothing less than a quantum breakthrough in man's eternal quest for something he knows he could put his finger on, if you just gave him a sec.

MIT has invented specialities that whisper in your ear. They do this because part of their frame contains a micro-camera which focuses on the person standing opposite you, matches his or her characteristics to images data-banked in a tiny computer contained in another part of their frame, and, after a bit, murmurs the person's name via a tiny loudspeaker hidden in the hook that goes over your ear. You think I jest? Here is project director Dr Alex Pentland: "It is a system of recognising faces, expressions, hand movements etc which could be described as the perfect solution to social embarrassment."

Oh, really? I can appreciate that if you tell the computer to watch out for a tall noisy Greek cove who walks with his hands behind his back, it will tell you when to curse, but what of the other thousands of faces, expressions, hand movements etc, I have run into in the course of my life? Even if these weren't attached to thousands of names, I have already forgotten, how in God's name — if he's the one I'm thinking of, elderly number, long white beard — are all these to be programmed in, now, the second cousins, the former neighbours, the old school chums, the ex-colleagues, that nice couple we met on Rockall in 1971, need I go on, yes I need, I need go on to the end of time, logging the names and characteristics of everyone I have met since the beginning of time.

Have you any idea, Dr Pentland, of the size of spectacles I should require to accommodate these data even if I ever succeeded in storing them, the earpieces would be the size of cricket bats, and what would happen when I walked into any social gathering? The social gathering would clock my enormous whispering horn-rims and groan. Hence that sad brain-dead jerk who can't remember anything, don't go near him, you'll have to stand there while that thing on his face sorts out who you are from the 34 other blue-eyed left-handed baldies he might have been at school or Tesco's with, it could take all night."

By the way, doc, I know MIT. I went to a convention there in 1963, and they made us all wear name-tags, something I hadn't seen before. What a great idea, I thought. Simple I grant you, but the best ones often are.

## Platform for platitudes

The world's foreign ministries love to interfere in the Middle East — but they cannot solve the problem

Why had I not written about this dreadful business in Lebanon, the lady asked. The outrage must be exposed. I scanned the question for bias. No invitation to debate the Middle East comes free of sub-plot. No phrase is unloaded. Which dreadful business? Behind every atrocity lurk ten adjectives and a hundred excuses. Was I being asked my view on Hezbollah's "terrorist assault on innocent Israelis", or Israel's "terrorist massacre of innocent Lebanese"?

I have one opinion on the 150 miles of coastline between Gaza and Beirut. It is crude and simple. The place should be left to its own devices. I do not own it, nor do I rule it. If I tried, as Britain once did, the outcome would again be disaster. I have visited both Lebanon and Israel and found them full of charming people. If they cannot live together in peace — whoever is to blame — then so be it. Thank you and goodbye.

Nobody else seems to agree. A Katyusha salvo over the Jordan and a missile retaliation on Beirut sends adrenaline pumping through the foreign ministries of the world. Nuanced denunciations are dusted off. Maps are taken down. Plane tickets are booked. Journalists are briefed. The Middle East conflict is the red-light district of world diplomacy. It is every statesman's something-on-the-side. Give him a free day and he will sink off to the Levant for some gratuitous self-promotion.

Israel's Operation Grapes of Wrath has precipitated an orgy of intervention. The American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has a secret plan shuffling between Tel Aviv and Damascus. He sits waiting on Syria's President Assad while the latter debates another plan with the Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeni Primakov. He in turn jugs photo-opportunities with the French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, whose own plan is launched with the ringing declaration: "France is back in this part of the world, which has been awaiting her so long." This induces the Italian Foreign Minister, Susanna Agnelli, to seek a European plan. "The Americans prefer it to be a totally American one," she says. "I think they need to have the help of someone" — that is, her.

The British are not far behind. Seeking Middle East peace settle mode, Lord Carrington was in Israel when the Argentinians invaded the

Falklands. Two weeks ago, the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, was also in Israel and leapt at the chance to seek peace. "I would not describe the Israeli reaction as disproportionate," he said of the latest artillery salvo. John Major promptly assured the Lebanese Prime Minister of his deep concern "that everything be done to break the cycle of violence". Not to be out-clucked, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, telephoned his Israeli opposite number, Ehud Barak, and told him of "the urgent need for violence in the region to be brought to an end".

From the comfort of his armchair he warned that in future Israel should use "maximum restraint" responding to rocket attacks. Israel answered this Western banality, offensive by raining fragmentation bombs on the Lebanese population. It too has an election in the offing. Hezbollah replied with a shower of Katyushas. Nothing changes in the Middle East.

Simon Jenkins

It is time to put their money and their troops where their mouths have been. A vague interventionist urge becomes a grinding and bloody foreign war. Watching statesmen and their cheerleaders scouring the books for reasons to intervene in Bosnia, I realised I was watching old-fashioned warmongers at work. John Stuart Mill, philosopher of imperial intervention, spoke of the need to venture beyond self-interest, to help peoples under tyranny or offer good government to "failed states". Frankly, any excuse would do. Just send out the gunboats and bring the dispatches back to *The Times*.

There is a copious literature justifying the new interventionism. The ideology rejects national sovereignty or the right to self-determination. Intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states nowadays requires no threat to world peace, no evidence of genocide, nor even an invitation from a beleaguered sovereign government. In the words of the 1995 UN "Commission on Global Governance" (Heaven help us) intervention is valid "on humanitarian grounds, in cases of gross abuse of the security of people". This might have been scripted by the Communists. It means might is right. The welfare state has gone global. Any nation can be taken into care.

The irony of recent history is that interventions that succeed in restoring a sort of stability would be regarded by most liberals as acts of local banditry: Tanzania in Uganda, America in Grenada, Vietnam in Cambodia, Syria in Lebanon, Indonesia in Timor. On the other hand, so-called humanitarian interventions usually prolong or at best postpone slaughter: Vietnam, Beirut, Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia, the former Yugoslavia. If America finally gives in to Clinton's interventionist zeal and polices South Lebanon, the omens are appalling.

I know of no theory that covers this compulsion. The yearning to intervene reflects the "Jupiter complex", the syndrome by which those in power believe in the constant extension of their omnipotence. First they express concern, then they are induced by the glamour, lights and jets and cameras to suggest peace plans. Then they find their peace plans picked up by embattled rulers eager to avoid the pain of domestic compromise.

The plea is always, we cannot leave these people to kill each other. Yes we can. Military intervention has been the cry of the imperialist and the arms manufacturer down the ages. It is an invitation to dance with the Devil. We can leave these people to kill each other, and usually we do. Their politics is their business, not ours. Voltaire was right. There is a limit to the mountains we can climb and the empires we can rule. There is a back garden urgently in need of cultivation.

## Balliol's man

**BALLIOL COLLEGE**, Oxford, one of the century's great bastions of uncompromising socialism, has been usurped by new Labour. The college has chosen a new Master plucked straight from the Blairite stable. Andrew Graham, 53, an economics don, will act as Master for four years from autumn 1997, while the present Master, historian Colin Lucas, serves as Vice-Chancellor of the university. Graham has been thick with Labour high-ups since Harold Wilson's time, when he worked as a policy adviser inside Downing Street.

A political moderate and keen windsurfer, Graham was on intimate terms with John Smith. He holds no official position in Blair's dictatorship, but keeps in touch with several members of the Shadow Cabinet.

From the time when Denis Healey and Roy Jenkins were undergraduates, Balliol has slipped ever further leftward, its apogee coming in the Sixties when the walls were daubed with revolutionary slogans and the historian and former communist Christopher Hill held court in the Master's lodgings. The

Junior Common Room remains one of the last nurseries of radicalism in the university. Graham fits in perfectly, having once labelled Thatcherism a "narrow-minded, excessively output-oriented and selfishly materialistic" ideology.

• Idealism has long since been ousted by new Labour, but even so the party's entry in the



### Spooky

WE ALL know that Somerset Maugham dipped his toe in the murky world of espionage, but a new book by a Japanese author claims he was even more of a spook than was suspected. Ichiro Tanaka says that Maugham paid five visits to Japan after the First World War, not two as previously believed, and that under the guise of researching for his books, he had been sent to report on Japanese political and military movements for MI6.

"I have traced his movements and joined in the dotted lines between previous accounts," explains Tanaka, 57, who works in the Swedish Embassy in Japan. "You see, because he's an exam subject, the Japanese are very keen on Maugham."

**First fan**  
HILLARY Rodham Clinton has at least one admirer other than the President. Joan Brady, the novelist who won the Whitbread Book of the Year for her novel *Theory of War*, has dedicated her

book to the First Lady. Death Comes For Peter Pan is a story close to Mrs Clinton's heart — it deals with one woman's struggle against bureaucracy in America's healthcare system, which the First Lady tried so hard to reform.

Brady makes the dedication even though she hasn't met Hillary. "I have only read about her in newspapers, but Mary Wesley, my neighbour in Devon, first suggested I should dedicate it to her. I think she is beautiful, brave and really magnificent."

The White House will receive an

early copy, which is guaranteed to go down well. The dedication gushes: "For Hillary Rodham Clinton who did her damndest to help."

**Strange rites**

THE BEST man at a fancy wed-

ding in Scotland the other day was cut short by an Amazonian figure draped in blue velvet just as he was getting into his stride. Nicolas du Chastel was a minute or two into a hernia-inducing speech at the reception in Megginch Castle, Perthshire, when Baroness Strange, the mother of the bride, approached.

With the drama only a woman of

such magnificent proportions can



Catherine Drummmond: upstaged

muster, she ascended the podium where du Chastel was speaking. Her daughter, the Hon Catherine Drummmond, looked on powerless as the great lady made stately circular movements with her arms. Enough was enough, and du Chastel duly wound up, looking like an angry rhinoceros.

P.H.S

RETHINK

A slot for the

de to take  
oldsmill  
seriously  
RIDDLE  
ON POLITICS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996



## THE REFERENDUM TRAP

Time and space are running out for Major

The mood against Europe is hardening: on the doorsteps, in the newspapers and at Westminster. A confluence of circumstance, from beef to fish, from the single currency to the social chapter, has produced a powerful exasperation with the impotence of Britain in the face of Brussels.

This mood has been growing for four years. The Times has for four years argued that the Prime Minister has failed to feel its force. The Prime Minister has proved mostly deaf to our arguments: the Tory party has proved wholly deaf to the case that he be removed from office. Now the cries of anger are louder and more numerous. But the real options for action to rescue Britain's position have become sadly more reduced.

In the shortening run towards the next general election none of the three main political parties can now meet the people's will. We command those politicians who are trying to do so, notably Sir James Goldsmith and John Redwood. The air is filling with solutions, new policies, new referendums. Some are attractive; some are sincere; some are workable; some might be effective. But little of significance is available to this Cabinet under this Prime Minister at this stage of the cycle of European events.

Mr Redwood meets Sir James today. He is likely to propose, for example, that the Government should announce an early referendum, before a general election, on Britain's place in Europe. The question might be: "Do you support a Europe of nation states or a European superstate?", or "Are you in favour of a simple common market in Europe or would you prefer more political integration?" or even "Who should run Britain: Westminster or Brussels?"

Mr Redwood's plan is that John Major should put this question to the public soon. Such a scheme has the double attraction, he thinks, of spiking Sir James's guns and putting the Labour Party on the spot. The referendum would be easily won by the anti-Brussels cause, possibly giving the Tories enough of a boost to call an instant general election on the promise that they would renegotiate Britain's terms of membership of the European Union, including the common fisheries policy and the supremacy of European Court of Justice judgments over British law. Labour would be wrongfooted and the Referendum Party would have either to withdraw its threat to put up candidates in Conservative seats or appear

as a mere eccentric vehicle for its founder. Political life is rarely so simple. First, the referendum question has to be agreed by Parliament. One such as the above, promising ready political gains for the Eurosceptics, would not find a majority in the House of Commons, where the Opposition would coalesce with Tory Euro-enthusiasts to water down the proposition. Once that was done, Labour would have no problem backing the Government line in the referendum campaign, thus nullifying the point of it.

Meanwhile, the very announcement of a new referendum would probably be enough to tip Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, into a resigning fury. It was hard enough for Mr Major to keep him onside during the carefully crafted deal on the single currency referendum. This would be a consultation too far for Mr Clarke, who has disdain for popular opinion on Europe. Eurosceptics might be delighted in the interests of purity, to see the loss of Mr Clarke and his allies from the Government; but with a majority of one, and a memory of the fatally damaging argument between Nigel Lawson and Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister is unlikely to agree.

It is easy to see where Mr Redwood's interests lie. After a defeat at the next election, he will be able to claim that, had the Government only taken his advice, the Goldsmith threat would have been removed and the Tories would have exploited their main electoral advantage over Labour. And it is easy to sympathise with Sir James's case. As we argued ad nauseam at the time, the Government should have consulted the people when the Maastricht treaty was drummed through Parliament: today's dissatisfaction stems directly from the sense that politicians have handed over the people's democratic birthright without having asked the people first. But it is difficult to devise a referendum question now that could deliver any positive change in Britain's position.

The Government can still look at other measures that might begin to restore its standing as the party that defends Britain's interests in Europe. Mr Major may be prepared to defend his position on the beef ban by non-cooperation on routine Brussels business. He talks of unnamed "other options" if he fails to achieve the lifting of the ban on Monday. But time for clarity and action is short — and shortening fast.

From Sir Patrick Duffy  
Sir, Your report from Moscow ("Yeltsin refuses to back Clinton on Nato's move east", April 22) will arouse the fears of many that whatever nuclear safety measures were agreed, the Group of Seven leaders have "missed an opportunity to improve global safety".

Your welcome leader, "Nuclear truths" (April 19), had reminded us that ten years after Chernobyl, the "most disturbing statistics of all are in the Kola peninsula".

The problems facing the Russian Navy are not confined to decommissioned submarines and the handling of radioactive wastes. Moscow-based reports admit that active submarines have nowhere to unload their spent nuclear fuel. Official sources admit to figures that can only point to a worsening of the overall position, given Russia's limited dismantling facilities.

The current emphasis on profitability in funding Russia's essential structures and the Russian Navy's preference for modernisation make it unlikely that environmental safety will receive sufficient resources.

The Moscow summit was in a position to assist by mobilising institutional, technical and financial resources. But this would call for a clear picture. Is it likely that such an audit would be permitted?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Nuclear safety and question of environmental disaster

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Teachers' view of boy's expulsion

From the General Secretary of NASUWT

Sir, It simply will not do for the Secretary of State for Education to off-load on to the local education authority the problem of the disruptive pupil at Glaistead School ("Shepherd rebukes education chief over expulsion", report, April 23).

The Conservative Government legislated in 1986 to give parents the right to appeal over the heads of governing bodies following permanent exclusion of a child.

I have repeatedly argued with every Education Secretary since 1986 that these appeal panels have been used by irresponsible parents demanding the right to send their children to mainstream schools regardless of their offspring's behaviour.

What price local management now? The Government argues that governing bodies are best placed to decide school policy on admissions; yet at the same time it believes that these bodies cannot be relied upon to make sensible decisions on exclusions.

Furthermore, these appeal panels are not truly independent. They are established solely by the local education authority. Membership and proceedings remain confidential. The local authority has a vested interest in forcing a disruptive pupil back into mainstream schools in order to avoid more expensive special educational provision.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL de GRUCHY,  
General Secretary, NASUWT,  
5 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2

### A millennium wheel

From Mr Michael Middleton

Sir, So London's Ferris wheel is a stage closer to construction (report and photograph, April 18). How Paris and Rome and Prague must be kicking themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MIDDLETON,  
84 Sirdar Road, W1.

From Mrs Alexandra Scott

Sir, Doubtless a huge wheel could be completed in time for the millennium.

The worry is that scientists would have insufficient time to develop further the recently announced strain of giant mice (report and article, April 21).

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDRA SCOTT,  
Malt Cottage, Lamb Corner,  
Dedham, Colchester, Essex.

From Mr Ivan Slee

Sir, I read today that the advocates of the Ferris wheel say that from the top passengers would be able to see for 30 miles to Luton as well as to Tunbridge Wells.

I am reminded of the famous late 19th-century Cockney song, attributed to Edgar Bateman and George Le Brun:

Wiv a ladder and some glasses,  
You could see to 'Ackney Marshes.

If it wasn't for the 'ouses in between.

Yours sincerely,  
IVAN SLEE,  
Twixtress, 2 Kennard Road,  
New Milton, Hampshire.

April 18.

From Mr Richard Westbrook

Sir, Why should traditionalists object to the siting of the proposed millennium wheel opposite the Palace of Westminster? Is it not normal to find a funfair next to a circus?

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. WESTBROOK,  
Redwood House, Winterbrook,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

April 19.

20/04/96

## THE FACE OF SHAKESPEARE

No science unmasks him, no cause or crank theory claims him

Not for the first (or last) time, Shakespeare is to be unmasks. Tomorrow a German scholar will publish photostat confusions of the portraits of the Bard to validate the Kesselstatt "death mask". Moreover, having gazed electronically upon their face of Shakespeare, German police computers scan bulge in the tear duct of his left eye. This suggests to the searchers that he did not die, according to legend, from a chill caught while drinking with Ben Jonson and Michael Drayton, but went blind from a cancerous eye tumour common in 1616.

Once you believe that, there is internal evidence in support. For the works are suggestively thick with eye imagery and the horrors of blindness. Shakespearean tears drop as fast as the Arabian trees their medicinal gum. Siren tears scald and drown the wind. Hamlet sees his mother like Niobe, all tears, calls himself a rogue and peasant slave for not weeping for Hecuba, and in a pun that falls with a splash, forbids his tears: "Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia."

Blindness is Shakespeare's conventional metaphor for Cupid, Fortune, lovers and politicians. The most terrible scene in tragedy comes in *King Lear* when the Duke of Gloucester has his eyes gouged out. Gloucester stumbled when he saw, but saw the truth once he was blind. And he was a work of the playwright's professional old age.

Because of his influence on the Romantics and the ease with which they translate him,

Germans see Shakespeare as an honorary German who had the misfortune to be born in Stratford. But he defies all attempts to enlist him. He has been claimed as a bigot of the Right, because of his contemporary fear of rebellion and foreigners. But he can just as well be press-ganged as a proto-revolutionary. For his disturbers of the civic peace come from the top of society, and he shows a fondness for English rustics in such unlikely settings as Denmark, Athens and Bohemia. Is it wrong to detect his sympathy even for such an unpromising underdog as Caliban?

Critics who interpret sonnets as autobiography claim Shakespeare as a homosexual. They forget that Elizabethan sonnet sequences were fashionable vehicles for eternal triangles of all angles. And heroines such as Juliet, Rosalind, Perdita and Viola are interested in heterosexual sex in a way that suggests that their author knew what he was writing about. In fact, the man who created such diverse characters as Hamlet, Falstaff, Volumnia and the Nurse, did not need to recycle his own life for material. His creatures were of imagination all compact.

The passion to know what Shakespeare looked like and how he died is understandable. But his true lovers, both German and English, know that they are chasing the sun. The German Shakespeareans have not answered the unanswerable. But they have done everyone a favour by sending us back to works that are a universal photofit.

## RETHINK FOR THE DAY

A slot for the spiritual, not the temporal

The BBC Today programme's Thought for the Day, a 2½-minute moral or religious meditation, is prone to recurring outbreaks of argument over who should be allowed to do the thinking and how they should do it. The heart of the matter is always the same: the right balance between spiritual refreshment and topicality. The search for "relevance" which afflicts many churchmen has also diluted the spiritual message of Radio 4's preachers to the nation. The BBC shows welcome signs of recognising that Thought for the Day will only remain valued and popular if the spiritual takes precedence.

A few thoughts on the "moral dimension" of the latest row over education policy slides quickly into politics. One of the contributors now being given a rest by the BBC would have us believe that his fearless commentaries on the Irish peace process and the Scott report were censored by pusillanimous broadcasters bowing before bullying politicians. This is a conspiracy theory too far.

Freedom of speech may be a live issue in

French nuclear tests or the poll tax. But this tells us little of spiritual value. A trite opinion is not a penetrating insight into moral dilemmas.

To urge Thought for the Day to stick to what it does best is not to suggest that the thinkers should confine themselves to theological speculation. When an important event dominates the news and preoccupies the country, the day's Thought needs to take account of the context. The shootings at Dunblane lead naturally into reflections on evil or bereavement. The best thoughts lead the listener gently from observation of the world to a path of moral reasoning. One of the best of this year's crop, the Chief Rabbi's defence of conversation and storytelling in families, deftly blended ethics and daily life.

The most powerful argument against excessive "relevance" in Thought for the Day is the appeal of a quiet pause for thought. If *Today* wants to transmit more opinions on the Government's policies from outside the London studio circuit, nothing prevents it from doing so. But Thought for the Day should always strive to be a firebreak in the natural disasters, instant analysis and news dispatches. The listener asks only that the speaker helps, in the Psalmist's words, to "renew a right spirit in me."

Yours faithfully,  
WAJID SHAMSUL HASAN,  
High Commission for Pakistan,  
35 London Square, SW1.  
April 17.

Business letters, page 31

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faded to 0171-782-5046.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Nuclear safety and question of environmental disaster

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

main difficulty is the volume of material that has to be reprocessed. If their nuclear engineering standards and practices are not as rigorous as ours, it does not follow that the Kola peninsula is some sort of unexploded Hiroshima.

A pressurised water reactor (PWR) which has been shut down for a long period generates only a small amount of residual heat, which is normally dissipated by convection, helped by the occasional stir-up by low-capacity pumps, until the fuel rods can be recovered, stored and reprocessed. There may be some radioactive contamination in the decommissioning procedure if it is done badly, and all radiation is potentially harmful, but we all live with low-level radioactivity in our daily lives.

By comparison, thousands are killed every year as a direct result of accidents with internal combustion engines and by the products of chemical waste and burnt fossil fuels, which cause respiratory and other diseases. In its way, this type of pollution is just as insidious as radiation, but is infinitely more widespread in its effects.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD SHARPE,  
Foundry House,  
Kingsley,  
Bordon, Hampshire.

April 21.

### Wartime internment

From Mrs Helen Simpson

Sir, Like Mrs Gertrude Timmis ("German-born widow to sue over internment", report, April 18) my father too was interned. He received an early-morning knock on the door from a courteous British policeman and was dragged from their beds by Germans, suffered the most brutal treatment and were finally burned in ovens — who knows whether alive or dead.

This compared to the fate of his family in Nazi Europe, who were dragged from their beds by Germans, suffered the most brutal treatment and were finally burned in ovens — who knows whether alive or dead.

Professor Pimlott based his criticisms on two points — that she took Harold Macmillan's advice after he had ceased to be Prime Minister and that she had a strong personal preference for Lord Home over R. A.

On the first point, Macmillan had only just resigned and the Queen was fully entitled to ask him for his advice, as she had been in January 1957 when she had consulted Sir Winston Churchill. To describe this as unconstitutional seems to me an untenable charge.

Yours faithfully,  
HELEN SIMPSON,  
Nutwood House,  
Barrow Point Lane,  
Pinner, Middlesex.  
April 18.

Yours faithfully,  
SUE WOOD,  
33 Gills Hill, Radlett, Hertfordshire.  
April 18.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDER HORSBURGH  
(Assistant Minister,  
St Magnus Cathedral),  
3 Mill Street, Kirkwall, Orkney.  
April 18.

### Queen's role and Home's succession

From Sir Robert Rhodes James

Sir, An article on the Queen that refers to her as "Elizabeth Windsor" ("Duty and tradition: Elizabeth's reign devotions", April 22) should warn the reader of the author's objectivity. In it Professor Pimlott repeats his interpretation of the Queen's role in the premiership succession crisis of October 1963 (report, April 15), about which Mr Vernon Bogdanor has also expressed disagreement (letter, April 20).

Professor Pimlott based his criticisms on two points — that she took Harold Macmillan's advice after he had ceased to be Prime Minister and that she had a strong personal preference for Lord Home over R. A.

On the first point, Macmillan had only just resigned and the Queen was fully entitled to ask him for his advice, as she had been in January 1957 when she had consulted Sir Winston Churchill. To describe this as unconstitutional seems to me an untenable charge.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RHODES JAMES,  
The Stone House,  
Great Gransden,  
Sandy, Bedfordshire.  
April 22.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDRA SCOTT,  
Malt Cottage, Lamb Corner,  
Dedham, Colchester, Essex.

April 21.

Yours faithfully,  
IVAN SLEE,  
Twixtress, 2 Kennard Road,  
New Milton, Hampshire.

April 18.

From Mr Richard Westbrook

Sir, Why should traditionalists object to the siting of the proposed millennium wheel opposite the Palace of Westminster? Is it not normal to find a funfair next to a circus?

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. WESTBROOK,  
Redwood House, Winterbrook,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

April 19.

### Forgotten squadron

From Mr Martin Bell



## COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE  
April 23: The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, National Maritime Museum, this afternoon attended a Reception at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President and Honorary Life Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this evening chaired the 1996 Prince Philip Lecture and attended a Dinner at 8 John Adam Street, London WC2.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 23: The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE - the National Deafblind and Rubella Society. This morning visited Ysgol Henrhyd, Deafblind Centre, Brynich, Neath, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan (Mr Robert Haste).

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, afterwards visited Alan Paine Knitwear Limited, New Road Industrial Estate, Ammanford, and was received by Major Kenneth Buckley (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed).

The Princess Royal was represented by Mr David Nicholson at the Memorial Service for Brigadier C.B.C. (Rocco) Harvey, DSO, late of the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO), which was held in the Church of St Edward, Stow on the Wold, this afternoon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
April 23: The Princess of Wales this morning departed from RAF Lintonsham at the start of an official visit to Canada. The following were present and took leave of His Royal Highness: the Deputy High Commissioner of Canada (Mr Serge April), the Army Adviser at the Canadian High Commission (Colonel John Bowell) and Group Captain Christopher Morris, RAFC (Station Commander).

Mr Stephen Lampert, Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Tabor RHC/D, Surgeon-Commander Robin Clark RN and Miss Sandy Henfrey are in attendance.

Thurso - Her Royal Highness was received in Ottawa by His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc.

After the official arrival ceremony The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, members of the Regiment and their Families, at the Canadian Reception Centre, Macdonald Carter International Airport Ottawa. His Royal Highness then visited the Terry Fox Centre for young Canadians.

The Prince of Wales was later received by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, at his official residence.

This evening His Royal Highness

attended a Dinner given by the Governor General at Rideau Hall.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
April 23: The Princess of Wales, Patron, International Spinal Research Trust, this morning received Mr Ian Walden (Director) at Kensington Palace.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Help the Aged, later received Mr Peter Bowring (President) and Mr John Mayo (Director-General) at Kensington Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, this morning gave a Luncheon at Kensington Palace.

April 23: The Princess Margaret, Baroness of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Private View of the Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

April 23: Princess Anne, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by the Lord Vestey at the Memorial Service for Brigadier C.B.C. (Rocco) Harvey, DSO, late of the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO), which was held in the Church of St Edward, Stow on the Wold this afternoon.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Whitley Village, of the Whitley Homes Trust, and opened Whitley House, Wallington-on-Thames and was received at the arrival by Her Royal Highness (Mr Richard Thornton).

YORK HOUSE  
April 23: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, this morning visited the University of Surrey.

The Duchess of Kent, President, NCH Action for Children, this morning visited Newbiggin Hall Family Project, Brian Toyroor, Centre Manager, and Emma, Newcastle upon Tyne, and was met on arrival by Colen Hugh, Brown, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened Newcastle Arena, Arnes Way, Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Duchess of Kent, President, visited the NCH Action for Children, Centre Manager, Colen Hugh, Bradford Road, Hesleham, Northumberland, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland (The Viscount Ridley).

April 23: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, United Kingdom Committee of UNICEF, attended a lunch given by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr Boutros-Ghali, in New York.

Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy celebrate the 33rd anniversary of their marriage today.



Zandra Rhodes wearing a T-shirt she has designed for Zoostyle, a charity fashion show the Princess Royal will attend at London Zoo today. Ms Rhodes is one of a number of British designers who are supporting the show, the first ever held at the zoo, which aims to raise money for the ZOO2005 redevelopment programme.

## Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Trinity Salmon Trust luncheon at Fishmongers' Hall at 12.40.

The Princess Royal as President of the Parson's Crime Concern, will launch Portsmouth Safer Cities project on board HMS *Warrior* (1860), HM Naval Base, Portsmouth at 10.30, and will visit the YMCA National Centre to name the new sports facilities at the YMCA, Merton, London.

Southwark, at 12.15. Later she will attend a charity fashion show at the London Zoo at 7.30 in aid of the Zoological Society of London.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Black Country Museum, will open the cast iron horse at the museum, Tipton, at 12.15, and will visit the Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre, 77-79 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, at 2.10, and will visit the Castle Vale Housing Action Trust at 3.05.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Lord Mayor's fashion show at the Mansion House at 3.05 in aid of St John Ambulance.

The Duchess of Kent will attend a charity concert at the Festival Hall, June 15 and the Fête on Saturday, June 29. Term ends on Thursday, July 4.

Edgware, Devon.

Term begins today. Former Edgwarellians will be meeting in London on Saturday, April 27. The May Ball for Parents and Sixth Formers will be held on Friday, May 3. Sports Day is on Saturday, June 15 and the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

Edenbridge, Kent.

Term begins today. The Organising Committee for the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr Boutros-Ghali, in New York.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr Boutros-Ghali, in New York.

Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy celebrate the 33rd anniversary of their marriage today.

## School news

### Dean Close School

The Trinity Term begins today. Anthony Thompson is the Captain of Cricket. There will be an Open Day on May 4. Prize Giving and the laying of the Foundation Stone for the new Music School will be on May 25, at which the Guests of Honour will be Julia Cleverdon and her husband John Garnett. The Service of Commemoration of Benefactors will be on May 26 at which the Preacher will be Precentor R.C. Lucas. 'Music for a Summer Evening' on June 15 will be the last concert with Colin Sherratt, who will play the Grieg Piano Concerto. The Leavers' Service and Reception will be on June 27 and term ends on July 5 with the Gaudy on July 6.

### Edenbridge College

Term begins today. Former Edenbridge College students will be meeting in London on Saturday, April 27. The May Ball for Parents and Sixth Formers will be held on Friday, May 3. Sports Day is on Saturday, June 15 and the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Edenbridge School

Plans are being formulated to celebrate the 50th Anniversary in 1997 of the founding of Lady Eden's School in Kensington. To help us to communicate with all former pupils, will they please write in now giving their name, address, dates when at the school, to: The Organising Secretary, 41 Victoria Road, London, W8 5RJ.

### Mill Hill School

Summer Term started on Tuesday, April 23. Kathy Haering continues as Senior Monitor and Marc Dweck is Captain of Cricket. The

Sixth Form European Conference and CCF Annual Inspection take place on May 9. Sports Day is at the Main Stadium on May 24 and the 'Leavers' Ball' on Top Terrace on June 20. Old Winterbournians are invited to a Reunion and the President's Garden Party on June 23. Further information can be obtained from the Old Club Office at the School. Term ends on July 4 and the Rugby Football touring party leaves for South Africa and Australia on July 20.

The School is a registered charity and exists for the education of boys and girls.

### Moulford Preparatory School

The Summer Term begins at Moulford Preparatory School today.

Head Boy, Alex McCracken Captain of Cricket, Jack Gregory Leader of the Orchestra and Oliver Embley Head Chorister. An Open Afternoon/Evening will be held on Thursday, June 27, from 3pm (further details from the School Secretary 01491 651439) and the Summer Concert is at 7.30pm on Sunday, June 29.

Woldingham School

The Summer Term begins today. Hannah Kiernan is the new Head Girl and Alexandra Moody and Celia Stuart-Menteth are joint Deputy Head Girls. Lord Nolan is the Guest on Prize Day, July 6, when term ends. Autumn Term begins on September 3.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Royal Grammar School, Guildford

The following awards are announced:

Academic Scholarships: Anthony Lewis (Crannmore), Rhodri Lewis (Crannmore), Lewis (Woolmers), Simon P. Barr (Mallinore Lodge), Alexander J. Kumar (Crannmore), Thomas P. Bell (Crannmore), Christopher St. John (Crannmore), Robert G. Wilson (RGS).

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on Monday, July 1.

Term ends with Speech Day on July 6. The preacher will be the Right Rev. Lord Runcie and the speaker will be Mrs J.A. Campbell. CMG, MA. Mistress of the Mid-Summer Dance is on Friday, June 28. Prize Giving will be on Wednesday, July 3. Prizes will be presented by Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School.

### Wycombe Abbey School

The Summer Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, April 17. In this Centenary Year, the full programme of celebratory events continues. On May 3 and 4, there is the UV Centenary Musical Production and on May 4, a triangular lacrosse match between Wycombe Abbey, St Leonards and the Benenden. The Summer Concert is at 5.00pm on Sunday, May 5, in Big School. The Houses will be open to Seniors during the weekend of May 4 and 5. Sports Day is on June 22, when again the Houses will be open to Seniors. The Centenary Weekend is on June 29 and 30. Parents' Day on the Saturday and Seniors' Day on the Sunday. This Centenary Weekend will be followed by the Centenary Day out for the present school on



Laura Blair on contract caterers who have developed 'healthy' menus

With the BSE scare at its worst, Sutcliffe, the contract caterer, took beef off the menu—but only in prisons. All other clients were given freedom of choice; it is not the role of caterers, after all, to dictate what their clients eat.

They must, however, be aware of trends in diet, and at the moment the long-term change is towards healthier eating. Cream soups, fry-ups, meat starters, red meats and sticky puddings are slowly going the way of all flesh.

According to contract catering companies, "healthy options" involving less fat, salt, sugar, increased fibre and the clear labelling of the contents of dishes, increasingly form part of invitation-to-tender documents.

The recent refurbishment of the English National Opera's staff restaurant at the Coliseum, for example, was also taken by Gardner Merchant as a good opportunity to change the catering style. More emphasis has been placed on healthy food options, including salads and vegetarian dishes.

Ventilation in the restaurant, which is under the stage, was improved and the room made more spacious to make room for the singers' voluminous costumes—previously, they were not able to sit on the benches, which were very close to the tables and screwed to the floor.

Contract caterers in general pose the question: is it not absurd for employers to go to elaborate trouble to make workplaces hazard-free and healthy if the diet of those who work in them is neither?

Making food hazard-free means eliminating identifiable danger—including harmful additives and bacteria, maybe even the remote threat of CJD. Notions of what constitutes a healthy diet change constantly—but then so do notions of what constitutes "health". Not so long ago, health was equated with age-defying beauty. Now we again worry that some don't eat enough, while others eat too much.

Healthy eating programmes are often seen as part of a keep-fit corporate culture. For example, at Fina, the petroleum company, whose contract catering is by Summit, and at Hewlett-Packard (catering by Aramark), healthy eating is part of a corporate policy that includes regular exercise and health check-ups.

But much of the healthy eating drive is fuelled by widespread public disquiet about the long-term wholesomeness of what we eat, inspired by a series of well-publicised food scandals, and a growing distrust of scientific pronounce-



Backstage meal: ENO technical staff, musicians and singers take a break from the opera *Fidelio*

## A bite at the opera

ments. More "natural" food is an established demand.

Nutritionists tend to play the science game with a straight bat, while still disputing the benefits of, among other things, fibre and cutting down on salt and sugar. But Anne Pawan, of Gardner Merchant's nutrition and dietary services, insists that the uncertainties have been exaggerated.

She says: "There are still areas of doubt—but also conclusions which have not changed over the years. One is the need to cut down on fats." And the polyunsaturates (in some vegetable oils) are not the heroes they once were, the current preference being for monosaturates such as olive and fish and rapeseed oils. Here the caterers' healthy eating response is probably about right. To quote Sutcliffe: "Where

possible our food is grilled or roasted rather than fried."

But eating is only partly about nourishment. Mostly it is about pleasure. Ms Pawan's advice to chefs is to "use salt lightly; but not so lightly that it will encourage people to sprinkle their food with salt themselves. The same with sugar; reduce it but the food must still be palatable."

Healthy eating is a balance between instinctive and acquired wisdom. A little of what you fancy there... and it is the gourmet, not the starkly scientific approach which is the order of the day. For example, Compass launched its first healthy eating programme as far back as 1983, but the recipes had been prepared by nutritionists, not the chefs, so they didn't work terribly well. Anne Turner, the

project manager of Eurest (part of the Compass Group), says: "Today we train the chefs in nutrition."

Virtually every contract caterer today has a healthy eating programme. The aim is to give customers what they want. The method is to give everyone an extensive choice— even fish and chips alongside non-fried fish dishes—and plenty of encouragement via point-of-sale publicity, colour codes, signage, and lots of information about the contents of dishes.

Ingrained tastes and aversions don't disappear overnight, but they do change. Today brown rice has few takers in Britain—but a generation ago lager held the same position. Caterers say that part of the value of clearly identifying ingredients is to prepare consumers mentally for lower salt or sugar in dishes.

The trend, meanwhile, is to have a core package of specifically healthy recipes, especially favouring Mediterranean cuisine because it is naturally low in fat and high in fibre and starch. This is coupled with good practice in ingredient selection and cooking methods, using lean meat, unblended oils, avoidance of deep frying and crème fraîche instead of cream.

## Beware the phoney copier consultants

**Copying costs are falling—but they could be cut even further**

A significant drop in the cost of reprographics in the first three months of the year is the biggest change in office costs recorded by the quarterly *Times/Procord* survey.

The introduction of new and more competitive photocopier contracts, plus the growing popularity of all-purpose machines providing computer printouts, photocopies and fax facilities, are responsible for the reduction.

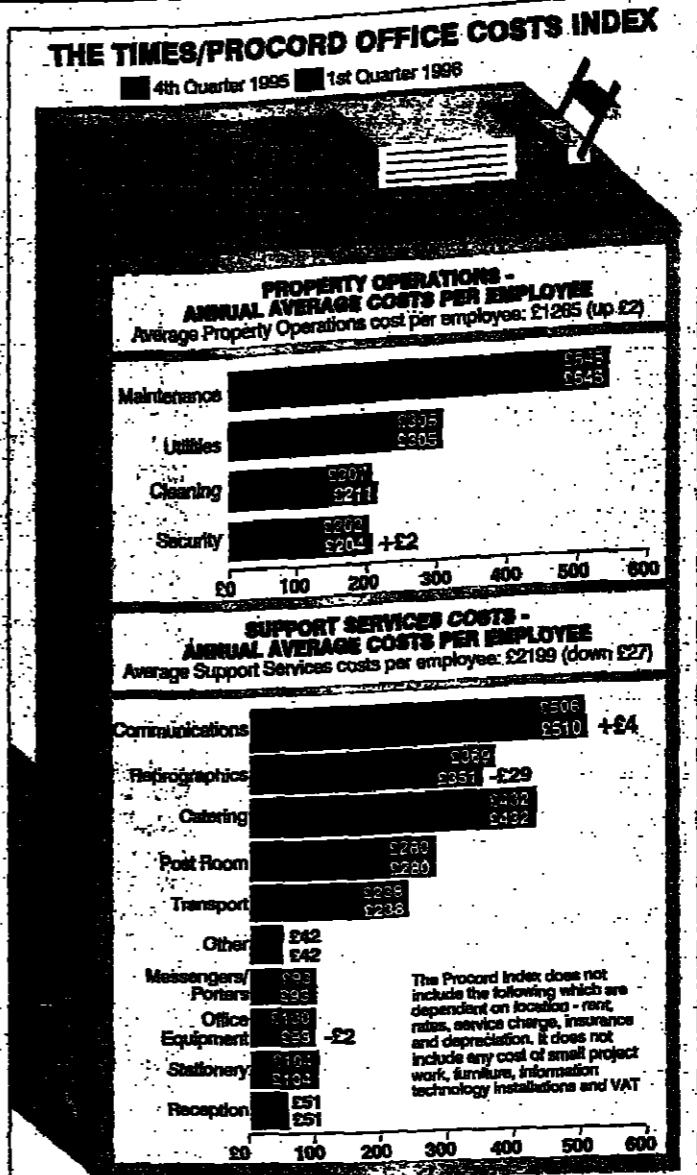
The change has brought annual office costs per employee down to £3,656, £25 less than in the final quarter of last year. But property management costs have remained static.

Barry Varcoe, Procord's international performance manager, says: "The boom time for the photocopier industry was the mid-1980s, when businesses were so eager to hire the latest equipment that they landed themselves with onerous and expensive contracts. Now that the contracts are expiring, companies can negotiate more favourable terms, especially as there are a number of surplus suppliers in the market."

The most dramatic example discovered during the survey of 250 office buildings around Britain was the replacement of a £14,000-a-year contract for the provision of two copiers by one for £6,500 which included new machines.

The reduction in costs could have been greater for the activities of "stripers", according to the *Business Equipment Users' Association*. Carmel Rowley, the association's director, says that these unqualified photocopy sales people, who present themselves as "copier consultants", are preying on business worries about the industry's prices.

They claim to know "the tricks of the trade" and offer to extricate customers from contracts. But often they end up pocketing



large fees—for minimal work.

The drop in reprographic costs found in *The Times/Procord* survey was partly offset by an increase in communication charges, which is attributed to the growing use of mobile telephones, faxes and other information technology devices.

Mr Varcoe also claims that cleaning and security costs could soon rise because of concerted pressure from companies supplying these services to raise their charges.

He says: "Cleaning and security staff will come from the same supply pool within the catchment area of an office; so contractors will be under pressure to themselves to match wages offered by their rivals. They will find it difficult to undercut those seeking more lucrative deals."

"The best way for a business to react to these pressures is to demand that staff carry out extra duties, such as manning the reception desk, or that they obtain other skills, such as first aid qualifications."

Mr Varcoe advises companies looking at their security costs to avoid the temptation of comparing their figures with other companies. "The provision of effective security is more complicated than that," he says. "The starting point must be a risk assessment, which needs to consider the specific risks of the industry in which the company is engaged, the location of premises and less obvious dangers, such as the possibility of flood or a road tanker that is carrying chemicals crashing into the site."

"A company can then work out the most effective way of doing the job. Employing lots of guards might not be the answer because just one or two men might be able to mount effective intruder systems and raise the alarm."

TONY DAWE

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 782 7936

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

FAX:  
0171 782 7762

### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT

#### BIFM Appointments Service

Euro Personnel Services have been supplying facilities staff for the last 16 years. Temporary and permanent positions have been sourced with contractors, consultants and prestigious end users on a National and International basis, from Junior Operatives to Board level.

Euro Personnel are now the BIFM Appointments Service.

For further information on how we can assist with your career development, contact our Head Office on 0171-623 0101.

**BIFM**

YOUNG & CO

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

Project and Facility Managers

247-257 Euston Rd, LONDON NW1 2HY

Tel: 0171 812 0170 Fax: 0171 813 0171

# Master fixer

**W**ith a building of 215,000 sq ft used by more than 2,000 people a day to look after, with cleaning and maintenance contracts to supervise, sports fields and science laboratories to keep in action, Raymond Gunn seems a typical facilities manager.

He is practising his profession, however, in a field where FM is virtually unknown: education. Mr Gunn is premises manager at Crown Woods comprehensive in Eltham, southeast London, and was one of the first school managers to become a member of the British Institute of Facilities Management.

As concern grows about the physical state of Britain's schools in a cash-starved environment, his skills are going to be needed. Yet the opportunity for FM companies, as opposed to managers, to move into the school market remains almost nil because of VAT.

Educational establishments must pay the tax for any outside services, so if they outsource the management of their premises they will have

**Tony Dawe**  
assesses the  
skills needed to  
run schools as  
a business

to pay an extra 17.5 per cent. If they call in an electrician, they pay VAT; if they use a staff employee, they don't.

The tax problem makes it difficult for FM companies to offer schools a complete management package at a competitive price but there are some services they could provide more cheaply even after tax is paid," says Howard Bibby, property consultant for Procord.

The need for professional help is paramount. A survey by the two local government associations found an "appalling" level of neglect in school maintenance, with a £3.2 billion backlog in repairs.

With increasing parental choice, schools are having to

compete for pupils and are concentrating on better teaching and equipment," says Mr Bibby. "Yet if a school goes for two to three years with inadequate maintenance, by the fourth it will not be functioning at all."

Proof of this can be found in London boroughs and many cities. At Islington Green School, north London, for example, lack of maintenance led to the breakdown of the boilers and closure of the school on three days when cold weather struck.

Mr Gunn is familiar with the problem. The formula used by the London borough of Greenwich to assess the maintenance budget for Crown Woods means that the school is entitled to £120,000 a year, but half of that is channelled into more direct educational spending by the school governors.

As a result, he has become an expert in getting value for money. "We have to think of the most cost-efficient solution to everything," he says. "I employ a carpenter four days a week at £60 a day and a



Raymond Gunn, outside Crown Woods School in southeast London, has become an expert in getting value for money

plumber at £80 a day, which is much cheaper than calling in contractors and paying the VAT when a job needs doing."

He must decide when more major works, like external

painting and repairing water tanks, become essential. He supervises cleaning, ground maintenance and furniture contracts. In addition, he arranges lettings of the school

and its sports facilities, which brings in £25,000 a year. "You can see why I hate being called a caretaker!" he says.

"Schools must learn to run their premises as a business,"

adds Mr Bibby. "If they can't afford to outsource the management, they can at least seek advice about setting up the right structure and assessment from FM professionals."



Home and dry: Sara Collins at work with the coastguard service in Scotland

**Stephen Hoare** on the FM manager who goes to work by boat or helicopter

**A**w wet suit is not everyone's idea of what the well-dressed facilities manager should be wearing, but Chesterton's Sara Collins slips one on when she visits one of her more remote assignments — a coastguard station on lonely Rathlin Island off the Northern Irish coast.

Rathlin is one of 300 properties in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the North East of England that Chesterton manages for HM Coastguard. Responsible for maintenance, Miss Collins coordinates inspection visits by surveyors to operations centres, equipment stores and coastguard cottages from the firm's Edinburgh office.

For Rathlin, the visit entailed a 20-minute trip out to the island in a rigid inflatable power boat. Luckily, the sea was calm. But that sort of journey is not unusual in the remote highlands and islands where many coastguard

## First don your office wet suit

properties are often best visited by helicopter, plane or ferry.

Miss Collins plans HM Coastguard's entire northern regional maintenance programme, managing an annual budget of roughly £500,000. She meets coastguard managers at the service's eight district offices once a quarter to approve repairs and review a planned maintenance programme.

Chesterton has for the last three years been steadily building an FM presence north of the border. Clients now include the Scottish Office, a chain of six government marine laboratories, Scottish Natural Heritage and Shell Oil.

times. Manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year they play a key role in co-ordinating emergency services — not just the coastguards themselves but RNLI lifeboats and MoD air-sea rescue helicopters.

This means keeping the power supply on at all times — not an easy task in exposed coastal areas where storms can bring down overhead power lines. Miss Collins explains: "All these stations have back-up diesel generators and batteries to ensure an uninterrupted power supply."

For Chesterton, this means setting up and supervising contracts with specialist mechanical and electrical contractors to make regular and frequent checks of equipment, making sure it will work when needed.

Mr Driver says: "Any time we ask them to do something we get a response immediately which was something we never used to get in the past."

### IN BRIEF

#### Tupe or not Tupe?

ST ALBANS council's dispute with MRS, a maintenance company, over redundancy payments for 17 workers is approaching the litigation stage. The council has taken advice from a QC. The outcome could affect the Tupe — Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) — regulations. "The losers will be the staff involved," says Norman Rose, new director-general of the Business Services Association.

□ AHS Emstar has been awarded a three-year contract to maintain 99 Bishopsgate, a 26-storey office tower damaged in 1993 by the IRA bomb. The building, owned by Hammerson (UK) Properties, has had a £65 million refurbishment.

□ PRUE Redfern, former business development manager for Procord, has joined the Symonds Group as FM marketing director.

□ COMPANIES have until December 31 to comply with new display screen regulations. These stipulate "an adequate level of humidity", without which VDUs can cause dry eyes and throats, and other ills. The Air Improvement Centre offers a helpline 0171 834 2834.

□ PALL MALL services group has been awarded a five-year catering and domestic services contract at St Ann's Hospital, Haringey.

□ ARDINGTON Archives, of Wanlage, south Oxfordshire, are encouraging companies to outsource their archive files, freeing office space for more valuable use. A box of dusty records can be kept for as little as £p a day.

□ REMOTE meetings, created by Electronic Environments, is claimed to be a new concept in communication: it combines video conferencing with document conferencing.

□ MORE than 6,250 visitors attended FM Expo at Olympia last month, a record. Winner of the Mifte press prize for best coverage was P&FM magazine.

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 782 7936

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

FAX:  
0171 782 7702

**BWA**

**Facilities Consultancy**  
A division of  
Bernard Williams Associates  
Tel: 0181 460 1111

**INDEPENDENT ADVICE**  
(not set for less)

on every aspect of Facilities Economics including

- Benchmarking
- Contract procurement
- Outsourcing
- Asset management
- Policy and strategy
- Systems. PFI bids

**THE TIMES**

### Facilities Management

The monthly Facilities Management section is now well established and recognised within the market place, and has become essential reading for anyone wishing to keep abreast of Industry News, Developments and Initiatives. Since 1992 The Times has been the only National Newspaper to devote an entire monthly section to Facilities Management. Should you wish to promote your company's products or services within our regular feature, contact:

Chris O'Neill  
Business Development Group  
Tel: 0171 782 7936, Fax: 0171 782 7702

**BUSINESS TO BUSINESS**

Appears in The Sunday Times and  
The Times on Tuesday.

A Quality Classified Section comprising of  
Business Services, Business Opportunities,  
Computer Services and much more.

By advertising in both publications, a joint  
membership of nearly £5 million would be  
reached, giving you more reason than ever to  
advertise your company in The Business to  
Business Section.

For details of incentive joint rates and further  
information

Call  
The Business to Business Team on  
0171 680 6111  
TUES 1996

**Recruitment**

As a result of significant growth in the size of its Facilities and Property Management division, this leading firm of international property consultants is able to offer a wide range of exciting and challenging career opportunities in a variety of locations nation-wide.

#### FACILITIES MANAGERS

Salary £20-£30k & benefits

With full financial responsibility for managing budgets in excess of £1m and managing a Facilities team and an indirect labour force of up to 60 staff, you will have responsibility for the provision of a full range of Facilities Service activities. You will effectively co-ordinate all the facilities requirements at our clients' sites — including full responsibility for contract negotiations, staffing, site and building maintenance, office accommodation and refurbishment projects, site security and help desk operations. You will display a full working knowledge of all relevant legislation and also have the confidence to proactively promote and market our services, increasing the partnership relationship with our clients. You will ideally be professionally qualified (with BIFM membership) and have between 3-5 years Facilities Management experience.

#### FACILITIES CO-ORDINATORS

Salary £15-20k & benefits

Assisting a Facilities Manager, you will ensure the delivery of an efficient and cost-effective Facilities service through both a direct and contracted labour force of up to 25 staff, with budgetary responsibility for up to £500k. You will provide full support to a Facilities Manager at our larger client sites or manage the provision of all services at our smaller locations.

If you believe you have the skills and abilities to work in this fast moving and continually changing environment, and are looking for a challenging career — we would like to hear from you. Please forward your CV in confidence to Sue Smith, Chesterton FPM, Aviary Court, Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 8GZ.

Closing date:  
8th May 1996.

**Chesterton**

Available Now Price £45 per copy

### The Facilities Management Yearbook '96

The fifth edition of Britain's premier facilities management buyers' reference guide. An invaluable guide for all professionals involved in the day-to-day management of buildings, premises and facilities.

#### Summary of contents

- Associations
- Institutes
- Advisory
- Research
- Governmental
- Legal
- Energy
- Power

#### 390 Products and services categories

- Multi-function fm selection
- Names
- Addresses
- Telephone and fax numbers
- Training
- Seminars and conferences
- Exhibitions
- 1996 calendar of events

For more information please ring Joanne Lunn on 0181 651 7100

**THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT  
YEARBOOK '96**



**EVERYTHING  
TO DO WITH  
BUILDING SERVICES  
MANAGEMENT.  
WELL ALMOST...**

I don't have to be King Kong. The everyday problems of Building Services Management can take on monstrous proportions too — heating and ventilating, health and safety, lighting control, energy bills.

Fortunately AHS Emstar can take it all off your hands. Making sure every single aspect runs smoothly. Managing and solving any small problems before they grow big enough to bother you or your staff. All day. Every day. We're one of the UK's leading Building Services Management specialists.

With a £110M turnover, a client base of over 2000 companies nationwide — from National Savings and London Transport to WH Smith — and 20 regional offices delivering unrivalled local technical expertise, our clients have the confidence to leave everything to us.

Leaving them free to concentrate on the big picture. Measure our ability to maximise the efficiency of your building.

Call Sarah Ridley today on 01784 496200 or clip the coupon below.

Return this coupon today for all the facts.

AHS Emstar Plc, FREEPOST (T1015) Staines, Middlesex TW18 4EP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Business \_\_\_\_\_

FMS 4.98

OFFICES AT: ABERDEEN, BATTERSEA, BASILDON, BELFAST, BRISTOL, CARDIFF, COVENTRY, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, MANCHESTER, NORTHOLT, NEWARK, NOTTINGHAM, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, STAINES, WAKEFIELD, WASHINGTON

**AHSemstar**

Leading the way in Building Services Management

## Shipowners cannot invoke clause

### The Mahkusa

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Justice Janner of Fulchettie, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann and Sir Michael Hardman Boys

[Judgment April 22]

Shipowners, who were not parties to the contract in the bill of lading issued by time charterers to the shipowners, could not invoke, either under a *Himalaya* clause (see *Adler v Dickson* [1955] 1 QB 158) incorporated into the bill or alternatively on the principle of bailment on terms, as against the cargo owners the exclusive jurisdiction clause contained in that contract.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held in dismissing an appeal by the appellants, the owners of the Indonesian vessel *Mahkusa*, from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong [1994] 1 HKLR 212 setting aside the order of Mr Justice Sears, who had granted them a stay of proceedings brought in Hong Kong by the respondents, the owners of cargo lately laden on the vessel.

Mr Peter Gross, QC and Mr Duncan Matthews for the shipowners; Mr Richard Alkens, QC and Mr Alan Rendhough for the cargo owners.

LORD GOFF that the shipowners had chartered the vessel to another Indonesian corporation, PT Rejeki Sentosa, which had subchartered it to the shipowners for the carriage of a cargo of plywood from Jakarta to Shantou in the People's Republic of China.

A shipping order was issued by *Gesuri Lloyd*, Sentosa's general agents, directing the vessel to receive the cargo from the shippers for carriage to Shantou subject to the provisions of Sentosa's form of bill of lading. The shipping order signed by the master constituted a mate's receipt for the goods. The master issued an authorisation letter to *Gesuri Lloyd*, authorising them to sign the bill of lading "in accordance with mate's receipt and relevant charterparty".

A bill of lading was issued in Sentosa's form, Clause 46(i) provided, *inter alia*, that every "servant, agent and subcontractor [of the carrier Sentosa] shall have the benefit of all exceptions, limitations, provision, conditions and liberties herein benefiting the carrier as if such provisions were expressly made for their benefit, and, in entering into this contract, the carrier, to the extent of these provisions, does not only on [his] own behalf, but also as agent and trustee for such servants, agents and subcontractors."

Clause 19 provided: "The contract evidenced by the bill of lading shall be governed by the law of Indonesia and any dispute arising hereunder shall be determined by

the Indonesian courts according to that law to the exclusion of the jurisdiction of the courts of any other country."

When the vessel arrived at Shantou the cargo owners claimed that plywood in one of the holds had been damaged by sea water. The vessel proceeded to Hong Kong for the discharge of other cargo. On arrival there the cargo owners issued a writ claiming damages arising from damage to the cargo. The shipowners issued a summons seeking a stay of proceedings.

Mr Justice Sears held that the shipowners, although not parties to the bill, were entitled to invoke clause 19 either as a contractual term or as one of the terms on which the goods were bailed to them, and he ordered that the Hong Kong proceedings be stayed. The Court of Appeal by a majority reversed that decision.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness on the part of judges to recognise such claims, especially in *Elder Dempster & Co Ltd v Paterson Zacharis & Co Ltd* [1924] AC 522, concerned with the principle of bailment on terms.

Opinion, however, hardened against them in the middle of the century as the pendulum swung back in the direction of orthodoxy in *Midland Silicones Ltd v Scrutons Ltd* [1952] AC 446; but in more recent years it had swung back again to recognition of their commercial desirability: see *New Zealand Shipping Co Ltd v A. M. Satherwhite & Co Ltd (The Eymedon)* [1975] AC 154 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd (The New York Star)* [1981] 1 WLR 138.

In the present case, shipowners carrying cargo shipped under charterers' bills of lading were seeking to claim the benefit of a *Himalaya* clause, called after the name of the ship in *Adler v Dickson*, in the bills, or in the

alternative to invoke the principle of bailment on terms.

However, they were seeking to invoke not an exception or limitation in the ordinary sense of those words, but the benefit of an exclusive jurisdiction clause. That would involve a significantly wider application of the relevant principles.

His Lordship said that so long as the *Eymedon* principle continued to be understood to rest upon an enforceable contract as between the cargo owners and the stevedores entered into through the agency of the shipowner, it was inevitable that technical points of contract and agency law would continue to be invoked by cargo owners seeking to enforce tortious remedies against stevedores and others uninhabited by the exceptions and limitations in the relevant bill of lading contract.

The two principles which the shipowners invoked were the product of developments in English law during the last century.

During that period, opinion had fluctuated about the desirability of recognising some form of modification of, or exception to, the strict doctrine of privity of contract to accommodate situations which arose in the context of carriage of goods by sea, in which it appeared to be in accordance with commercial expectations that the benefit of certain terms of the contract of carriage should be made available to parties involved in the adventure who were not parties to the contract.

Those cases had been concerned primarily with stevedores claiming the benefit of exceptions and limitations in bills of lading, but also with shipowners claiming the protection of such terms contained in bills of lading.

At first there appeared to have been a readiness

## Shock horror hits the Sunday doormat

Giles Coren reports on why a respectable newspaper broke new ground in taste

**W**hen the *Sunday Express* dropped on to the doormats of middle England last weekend, its readers were enjoying the sunniest morning of the year so far. By the time the front page had been unfolded, stormclouds were gathering.

"A bunch of shits", screamed the headline, in letters nearly two inches high, the first time the word, or any like it, had appeared in such a prominent position in a British newspaper. The quote was attributed to the Prime Minister, part of a tirade against other European leaders and leaked to the paper by a senior Tory source to toughen up John Major's image. The word had the Downing Street imprimatur, certainly, but its size and position were totally unexpected.

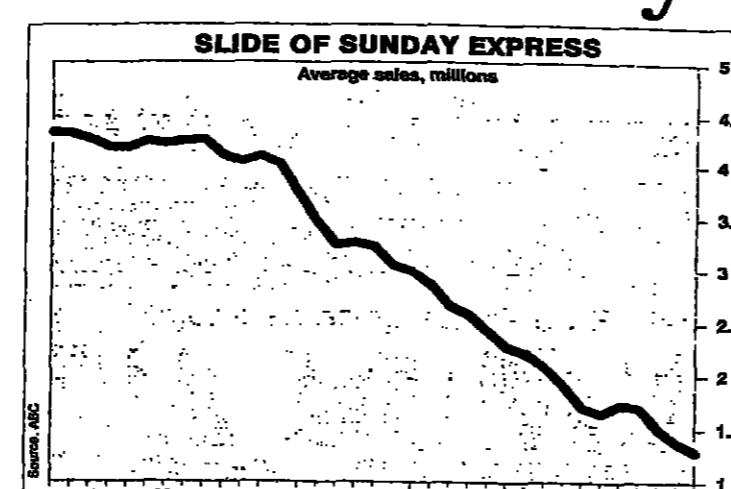
But the Editor, Sue Douglas, was unrepentant. "Of course we were worried about the possible response," she said. "And a few people thought we shouldn't do it, including some of the younger journalists, with very young children. But we ran it because it is what he said. It is not so long ago that all the papers were running the 'bastards' story. And was shit really

so much worse as a word? It had been seen in print before, although admittedly not in a 140-point banner headline. But it crystallized the point, and made the story stronger."

The Editor of the *News of the World*, Phil Hall, was in no mood for excuses. "It was outrageous," he said. "We would never carry a headline like that. And coming from Britain's most outrageous newspaper, that is saying something."

"I was news editor on the *Sunday Express* and I know that the shockwaves will be reverberating around middle England. My mother told me she would be cancelling her order immediately, and I don't think she will be alone. You should be able to leave a Sunday newspaper on the coffee table all day. People do not want their children coming up to them saying, 'What is a bunch of shits, Daddy?' You can put the words in the copy, where adults can choose to read about an adult subject, but in the headline it is going to be read on news-stands, and, again, children will read it."

There were, indeed, problems on the newsstands. Journalists at the *Sunday Express* told of worried



phone calls from newsagents putting up billboards who assumed there had been a mistake.

But according to Roy Farndon, Editor of *UK Press Gazette*, it was no accident. "Nor was it a case of 'Can we get away with this headline?'" he says. "This was a deliberate attempt, made after consultation, to appeal to a younger audience. They decided on the message they wanted to send about the paper, and then looked for a way to send it."

"It was a brave move for an editor

to make, but the trick is to appeal to new readers without alienating older ones."

"Of course we are hell-bent on getting younger readers," says Ms Douglas. "Everyone knows that. But we have an image problem, and need to be noticed more. That was part of the decision. I felt as if I was on the edge of a diving-board all day, and I just thought, 'Oh, go on, jump.' I spoke to Lord Stevens before I did it. He said he would support me."

She insists that the objectors have

been few. "We have taken 57 calls so far," she says. "Thirty-six were appalled, 16 were cancelling their subscriptions, and five were just praising the sentiments." Not enough to sway Ms Douglas. She will, she says, be doing it again, but admits that "shit" was a borderline case, and that the *Express* will go no further.

It seems that sales did increase by 11,000 on Sunday. But people rarely begin cancelling before the newsagents bill comes in. Since the *Sunday Express* has the highest pre-ordered sale (as much as 80 per cent) of any paper in Britain, this will be crucial.

Cynics insist that Douglas, with only a year to show an improvement in circulation, is resorting to desperate methods. It is also seen as significant that the paper's owners, United Newspapers, recently merged with MAI, which is owned by Labour peer Lord Hollick. Prudish United chairman Lord Stevens, it is said, would not have sanctioned this in his days of total autocracy.

One man who was not ruffled was Sir John Junior, Editor of the *Sunday Express* until 1986. "It is a fairly appropriate description," he said. "I wouldn't have used it in my day, but then Europe has changed. Shit is common parlance now, and you should speak in the language of the people."

## Must try harder

From all over the world, curious bureaucrats come to London to see the miracle on Foley Street: commercial television forced to perform uncommercial acts. In most other countries, commercial TV consists of non-stop advertisements broken by game shows, old movies and cartoons.

This morning, the Independent Television Commission will give its annual demonstration in regulating for social responsibility when it pronounces judgment on the performance of those television services under its thumb: ITV, Channel 4, GMTV and Teletext UK.

If leaks are true, the ITC is going to tell the 15 regional companies which form ITV (or Channel 3) to try harder to serve their regions as well as the national network. And it probably will get results, as it did two years ago when it told Carlton and GMTV that they ought to be ashamed of the poor quality of what they offered on the network.

There is no mystery on how the ITC does it. The commission, through Parliament, holds the power to give and take away licences, and to scold and fine those licence-holders who do not meet their public-service obligations. But no regulatory agency can be better than the law it is given to enforce. The Broadcasting Act of 1990 was a mess. The stipulation that ITV licences be auctioned to the highest bidder worked against the public interest.

The ITV network has to draw big audiences to please its advertisers. The 15 companies have to pay £400 million a year to the Treasury as a consequence of their auction bids. That money should be going into programmes, not to the Treasury. But even if amendments to the new Broadcasting Bill, after 1997, make this possible, don't expect to be seeing the likes of Dennis Potter's work on ITV. Regulation cannot relieve ITV companies of their prime obligation — to reward their shareholders.

The romance between BBC and the paranormal continues. The BBC's staff magazine *Ariel* reports in its news round-up of April 16 that a long series of unusual events at BBC Inverness have prompted an investigation by psychic Daphne Ploughman. After studying various phenomena — sightings of a woman in grey, possibly in mourning; unexplained screams; and the sound of heavy footsteps going through a closed door — Ms Ploughman concluded that the BBC building is one of "great psychic activity, which has possibly been disturbed by recent decorating work". Undoubtedly a BBC commissioning editor is already on his or her way.

## Keep politics out of vaudeville

Roy Hattersley believes that politicians should refuse to play the TV soundbite game

**D**o not tell me that television compensates for the shortcomings of newspapers by allowing politicians to speak directly to the people. I believed that once. But that was before I spent hours of my life on Palace Green somewhere between the Henry Moore sculpture and a nervous breakdown.

Let me remind you what happens there. The reporter asks the politician to describe the new policy as briefly as possible. The politician responds to the request and is told that his statement was admirable in every way — but slightly too long. He tries again but still exceeds his ten seconds. Arguments about the problems of compression are met with the invincible but infuriating explanation that the news bulletin is barely 20 minutes long, only five minutes will be devoted to politics, two political subjects must be covered, other parties must have their say, and each participant has to be identified. "So, when we're doing the recording, will you walk towards the camera for an establishing shot?" Do not tell me that television makes up for the inadequacy of newspaper coverage of serious politics.

Indeed, in this week when *Panorama* officially became a chat show, it is easy to argue that television accelerates rather than holds back the increasing inclination to confuse politics and vaudeville. Too many television and radio commentators see themselves as personalities in their own right — performing to their own following. This is not a criticism of the tough interview about which only the feeblest of politicians complain. Humphrys and Naughtie actually do encourage politicians to talk about serious issues. But some commentators think of

The media game will reduce Labour's chances of winning'

one man, Mr Paxman, hoped for Miss Nicholson to answer: "Fair cop, guy. You've got me bang to rights. I am a cynical opportunist." He was performing. And in her solemn rejection of the accusation, Miss Nicholson was performing too. The result was vaudeville — with Mr Paxman as star and Miss Nicholson as full supporting cast. Showbiz is no alternative to sensible debate.



When Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberals Jeremy Paxman failed to ask the important constitutional questions

That is why I felt so strongly this week that Labour's local government campaign launch should not have begun with a recording of the Tory party chairman losing his temper on the radio, accompanied by staged laughter from the party's media advisers. In the long run, Labour is not going to win elections because of the inadequate personality of its opponents. It is going to win because of the superiority of its policies. And the more the party co-operates in the media game, the more the media game will reduce its chances of winning.

**I**n base that firm conclusion around the single word "gaffe". It seems to me that what both Clare Short and John Prescott said last week about taxation was of absolutely no political significance. Both comments

were blown up into stories in part because of the instinctive malice of some newspapers. But Labour's reluctance to talk about tax provided them with the opportunity. Nobody in their right mind expects an announcement of tax rates. Indeed, one of my few parliamentary successes was when I asked Geoffrey Howe what the standard rate would be if his party won the election and he told me it was the most stupid question he had ever heard. It was a question which Kenneth Baker had asked Labour to answer at five consecutive press conferences. The rule still holds good. But that is not the same as arguing against a bold statement of general principles. Where Labour leaves a vacuum, all the tricks and connivances of a basically arcane system are used to the party's disadvantage, including the last refuge of desperate sub-editors, a headline that proclaims another gaffe.

There are immense dangers for radical parties in becoming enmeshed in the arcane game that characterizes the relationship between politicians and political journalists. We can, in the short term, believe ourselves to be super-professional — contradicting their errors of fact, refuting their malicious allegations and making cutting off-the-record criticisms of colleagues who step out of line. But in the end, a radical party succeeds or fails according to the strength of its ideas — not the success with which, in the idiom, it puts a spin on the day's news.

• An edited extract from the James Cameron Memorial Lecture in London last night.



When Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberals Jeremy Paxman failed to ask the important constitutional questions

'Showbiz is no alternative to sensible debate'

believe ourselves to be super-professional — contradicting their errors of fact, refuting their malicious allegations and making cutting off-the-record criticisms of colleagues

who step out of line. But in the end, a radical party succeeds or fails according to the strength of its ideas — not the success with which, in the idiom, it puts a spin on the day's news.

• An edited extract from the James Cameron Memorial Lecture in London last night.

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND...

A same day as judgment law reporting service which is the source of its own information

having professionally qualified reporters in Court and its own Editorial Team

A fully hyper-linked and cross referenced index structure as well as highly flexible and rapid search facilities

An online system which is updated daily and has been designed to give maximum ease of access and use

English and European Court Judgments which are immediate, digested, indexed and cross-referenced

## Readers switch support to Labour

Peter Riddell and Robert Worcester observe a change of political heart among the reading public since 1992

CONSERVATIVES LOSE ACROSS THE BOARD					
Daily title	Sample size	Readers %	Con %	Lab Lib-Dem %	Con to Lab %
The Sun	3,424	20	24	68	10
Daily Mirror	2,571	15	9	82	24.0
Daily Star	537	3	14	75	15.0
Daily Mail	1,888	11	43	58	22.0
Daily Express	1,127	7	49	35	14
The Daily Telegraph	1,070	6	51	31	16
The Times	714	4	42	38	12
The Guardian	672	4	8	78	10.0
The Independent	418	2	18	62	21
Financial Times	196	1	49	55	17.5
All	17,296	100	27	56	14
Source: MORI			18.5		

(still more than half). *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail*. Now, only 26 per cent of readers of the popular tabloids support the Tories, with 60 per cent backing Labour and just 11 per cent choosing the Lib-Dems.

Among readers of centre-left newspapers, such as *The Guardian* and *The Independent*, there has been a big shift from the Lib-Dems to Labour. While support for the Lib-Dems among the public as a whole has dropped by 4 percentage points since the last election, the decline is 13 to 14 points for readers of these two papers. Support for Labour has risen by 23 to 25 points, against 21 points nationally.

The same pattern is broadly true of readers of the Sunday papers.

• Voting-intention figures are based on interviews with 17,296 adults between January and March and exclude those who said they would not vote (10 per cent), were undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to name a party (3 per cent). The comparison is with 22,726 people interviewed during the 1992 general election.

• Robert Worcester is founder and chairman of MORI and Peter Riddell is political columnist of *The Times*.

Only a third of the readers of the five broadsheet quality daily newspapers now support the Conservatives, according to a new analysis by MORI for *The Times*. At the 1992 election, 47 per cent of quality paper readers asked supported the Tories, now 47 per cent say they support Labour.

Based on interviews with 17,296 people during the first three months of this year, the poll shows that the biggest swings against the Tories since the 1992 election have occurred among readers of traditionally Conservative-inclined papers such as *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*. The biggest switch — 24 per cent from

this could also reflect the impact of the big jump in circulation since 1993. Just over two fifths (42 per cent) of current readers of *The Times* say they would vote for the Tories, as against nearly two thirds of readers at the time of the 1992 election. Just under two fifths (38 per cent) of readers now say they would support Labour. The balance of party lead has fluctuated within a few points over the last couple of years. This time support for the Tories among the readers of *The Times* has been lower than among the readers of *The Daily Telegraph*.



New Law Online

Launch 30th April 1996

A PRODUCT OF:

New Law Publishing

In association with Oxford University Press

Country Court Quarterly, Judicial Committee

Chancery Court Journal, Wills and Probate

Probate Practice and Procedure, Probate Practice and Procedure



## NEWS

## 66 Tories vote against EU court

■ Conservative MPs staged a powerful show of defiance against the European Union yesterday as John Redwood prepared to warn Sir James Goldsmith against splitting the Euro-sceptic vote at the next general election.

A backbench Bill that would have severely limited the powers of the European Court of Justice in Britain was supported by 66 Tories, including a parliamentary aide. It was rejected by 83 votes to 77. .... Pages 1, 10, 18, 19

## Children who start school too young

■ Many parents are treating their children like young animals, sending them to nursery schools while they are still in nappies, the head of an independent schools association claimed. She feared for the future as many stayed with their mothers only while biologically dependent on them. .... Pages 1, 4

## Tycoon's rape charge

The multi-millionaire media tycoon Owen Oysten raped two teenage models at his 16th-century castle, Liverpool Crown Court was told. The girls had stayed silent for years. .... Pages 1, 3

## Down to earth

Richard Branson floated down to his New York shop in a balloon, showing the same indifference to danger when questioned about a former employee's sexual harassment claims. .... Page 11, 19

## Mercy killing case

The husband of a coma patient in Scotland's first right-to-die case has spoken of his love for his wife and of the stress that the court battle to allow her to die has placed on his family. .... Page 9

## The Bard had cancer

A German professor, working with detectives and medical experts, has bolstered her theory that Shakespeare suffered from a rare form of cancer, lymphoma of the tear gland. .... Page 11, 19

## Yeltsin in the lead

Independent schools have ended their recession with an influx of foreign boarders and a boom in private education for the under-fives producing the first rise in pupils since 1991. .... Page 4

## Schools surge

President Yeltsin has surged to the lead in Russian election opinion polls, overtaking Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader. .... Page 12

## Italian manoeuvres

Romano Prodi, leader of Italy's Centre Left, approached the Communist Refoundation Party and the separatist Northern League as he manoeuvred to form a government. .... Page 13

## MP tells of smear

A Tory backbencher told a court that a journalist who is now Tony Blair's press secretary conducted a campaign to destroy his reputation. .... Page 4

## Lost ball

Helmut Haller, the West German footballer who grabbed the ball at the end of England's 1966 World Cup final victory, has admitted that he has lost it. .... Page 6

## Actress wins

The American actress Stefanie Powers received an apology in open court and damages from *The Sun* over a defamatory article. .... Page 7

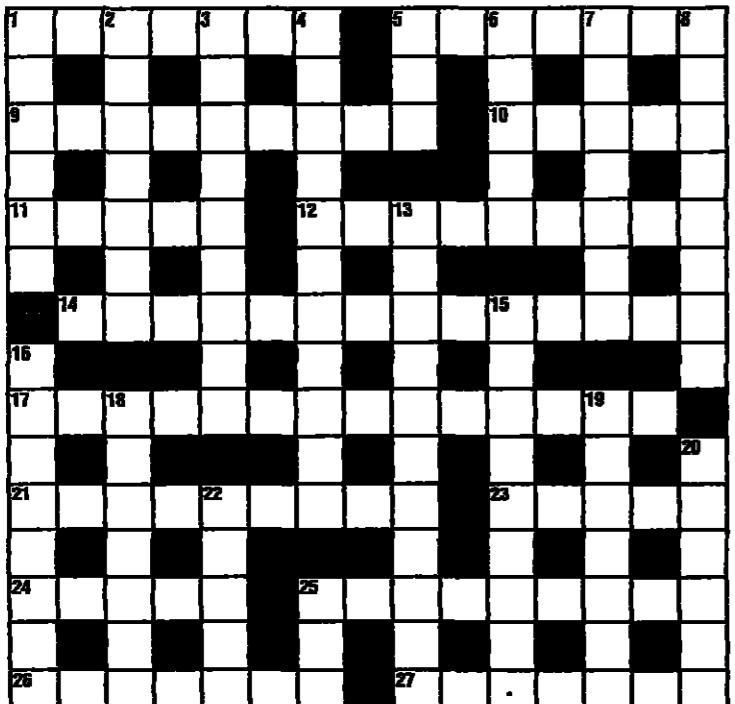
## Showing his hand

President Clinton spent most of the ten-hour flight home from Moscow playing cards. His favourite game is hearts, and he seems to be an expert. .... Page 15

## Princess was unhygienic on parade

■ If Sister Monk, the first operating theatre sister I worked under as a houseman, had seen the Princess of Wales's hair peeping out from beneath her surgical cap, her language would have made a regimental sergeant major. Straggling hair can drip organisms on to an open wound and cause immediate problems. .... Dr Tom Stuttaford, page 7

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,150



## ACROSS

- Pays up somehow to secure right ancient document (7).
- Service provided by Jeeves personally (7).
- E.d. Shakespeare's blue cotton cloth (5-4).
- Giant dispatches servant to get fruit (5).
- Less than half the ice-cream for all the performers (5).
- Army's obsession initially parks islander (9).
- State of excitement is not so new in parts of these bars (14).
- Behave rashly with second girl, over spare diamonds (5,2,4,3).
- Extending indefinitely, it's fifty miles out (9).
- Learn in dire trouble? (5).
- Chap's name I put in before (5).
- Go along with American writer and eat freely (9).
- Enclosed area - a jolly place for swinging sailors once (4-3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,149

DEFACE PRODIGAL  
EAHSOULI  
CONTENTED COAST  
ATAEAZC  
PLAYPEN RALEIGH  
OISDIEI  
DEHLI INCAMERA  
SDNKI  
A STRENGTH SABRA  
FIQOMULY  
INTEGER DEADEND  
DAEDSNMR  
GENET EVOCATIVE  
EIJURNGSA  
TRAPPIST NEWHAM

27 Implore opponents at table to negotiate (7).

DOWN

- Ready, in Spain, to take position in plane (6).
- Course holder's line in sales pitch (7).
- Send down girl who's out of practice, say (9).
- Cheat, providing limited peal of bells (5-6).
- The vehicle in front (3).
- Evidence almost overwhelms scholar, one of 22's set (5).
- Academic point about it is offensive (7).
- Some Africans prosecute Europeans coming in (8).
- Instrument amplifying beat given by organ (11).
- Feeling nurse had on books about great healer (9).
- Book of songs accompanied by unknown old instrument (8).
- Crossing Maidenhead, a solitary social worker (7).
- School replacing English with a form of art (7).
- Keen to make an impression round king or queen (6).
- Foreign character's articles about end of conflict (5).
- Eccentric Scotsman given a rise (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 55 per cent of the solo competitors in the Edinburgh Regional Final of *The Times* Abberlour Crossword Championship and by 54 per cent of the



Beef worth £10,000 was given away at Westminster by exporters protesting about the loss of their foreign markets. .... Page 2

## BUSINESS

CBI gloom: Business leaders said that manufacturing activity was at a standstill. .... Page 27

Sears slumps: Hefty restructuring costs of £19.8 million pushed the Sears retail group £19.7 million into the red at the full year stage. .... Page 27

Babcock warning: The engineering group said political tension between Britain and Saudi Arabia is costing it orders. .... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 19.7 to 3,833.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index climbed from 83.8 to 84.0 after a rise from \$1.51/4 to \$1.51/6 and from DM2.29/14 to DM2.29/00. .... Page 30

## SPORT

Football: England will blood Robbie Fowler in his first full international tonight, two weeks after his 21st birthday. .... Page 52

Rugby union: The RFU is pursuing a high-risk strategy in trying to persuade its five nations partners that its vision of the televised future is correct. .... Page 50

Cricket: India have omitted Vinod Kambli from their party to tour England for what are believed to be disciplinary reasons. Mohammad Azharuddin is to continue as captain. .... Page 45

Snooker: Alan McManus displayed admirable resilience under pressure to reach the last 16 of the Embassy world championship with a 10-3 victory over Mick Price. .... Page 50

## FACTS

West End bow: F. Murray Abraham is better-known for his Oscar-winning performance as Salieri in the film *Amadeus*. Now he makes his London stage debut as the 82-year-old Tolstoy. .... Page 42

Dumb show: The Actors Touring Company is teaching students how to be professional actors without saying a single word. .... Page 43

New musical: A Danish-backed competition is aiming to find out who will follow in the footsteps of the giants of the musical Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim. .... Page 43

Victorian treasures: You may think they're eyesores, but Marcus Binney wants the Government to force the preservation of the gasometers at King's Cross. .... Page 44

## CHAMPAGNE CHARLIES

Nigella Lawson says we would rather eat what we think is fashionable than a dish we enjoy. .... Page 17

Dumb and lean: Tops have grown more minuscule, but skirts are so long that they sweep the ankle - and look wonderful with strappy sandals. .... Page 16

Preview: The IRA ceasefire is examined in *Dispatches*, Channel 4, 9.00pm. Review: Matthew Bond finds Keith Floyd's rollicking style is intact on his latest culinary expedition. .... Page 25

## The referendum trap

Today's dissatisfaction stems directly from the sense that politicians have handed over the people's democratic birthright without having asked the people first. But it is difficult to devise a referendum that could deliver any positive change in Britain's position. .... Page 19

## Shakespeare's face

The passion to know what Shakespeare looked like and how he died is understandable. But his true lovers know that they are chasing the sun. .... Page 19

## Rethink for the Day

Thought for the Day should always strive to be a firebreak in the natural disasters, instant analysis and news dispatches. The listener asks only that the speaker helps in the Psalmist's words, to "renew a right spirit in me". .... Page 19

## SIMON JENKINS

The Middle East conflict is the red-light district of world diplomacy. It is every statesman's something-on-the-side. Give him a free day and he will sink off to the Levant for some self-promotion. .... Page 18

## PETER RIDDELL

The Tories should treat Sir James Goldsmith as a political and electoral opponent rather than as a well-intentioned, but misguided, ally. He should be fought rather than humoured. .... Page 10

## SIMON BARNES

The Football Writers' Association guaranteed itself instant controversy by voting Eric Cantona player of the year. It is a great message to send out because it is about forgive- ness and rehabilitation. .... Page 45

Daphne Bennett, historian; Hafeez Kardar, cricketer and politician; Professor Sir John Gof- ding, surgeon. .... Page 21

Nuclear safety: teachers' view on expulsion; the Queen's role in 1963 premiership choice; hymns; the countryside. .... Page 19



## IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS Geoff Brown on Ian McKellen's *Richard III*, plus other new releases

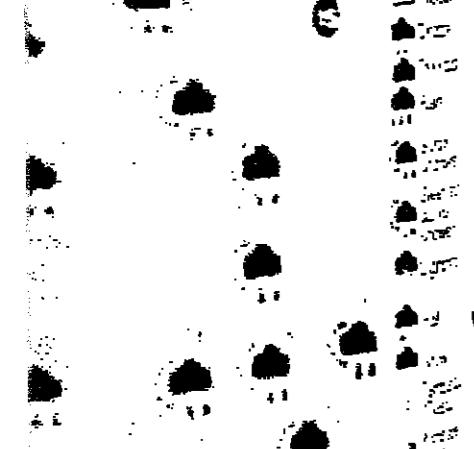
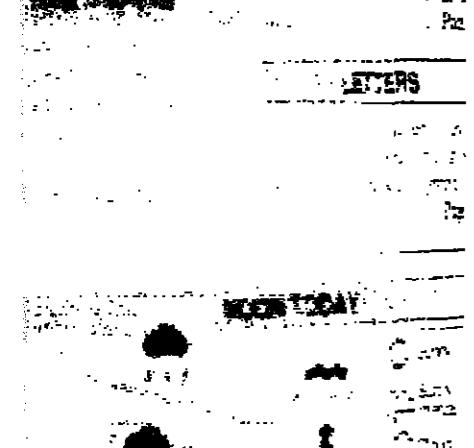
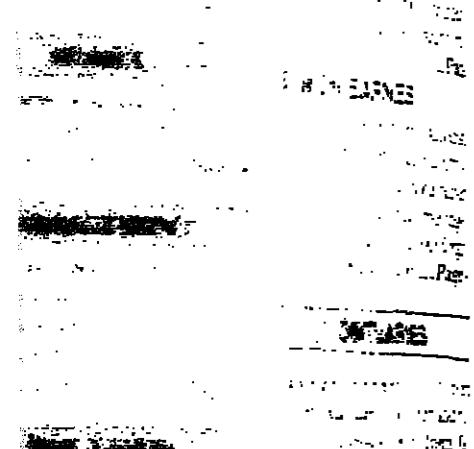
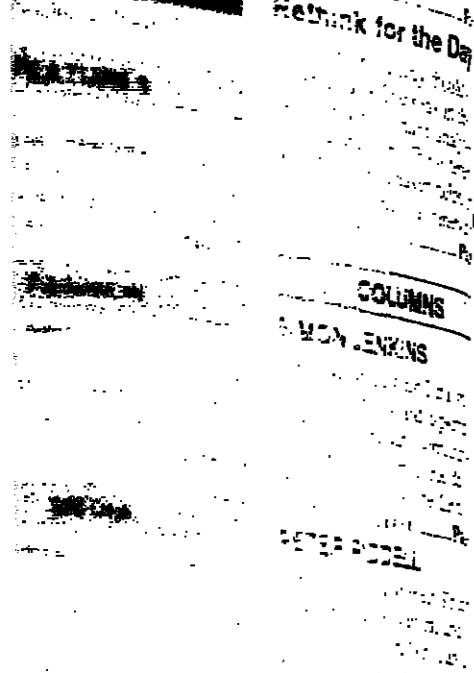
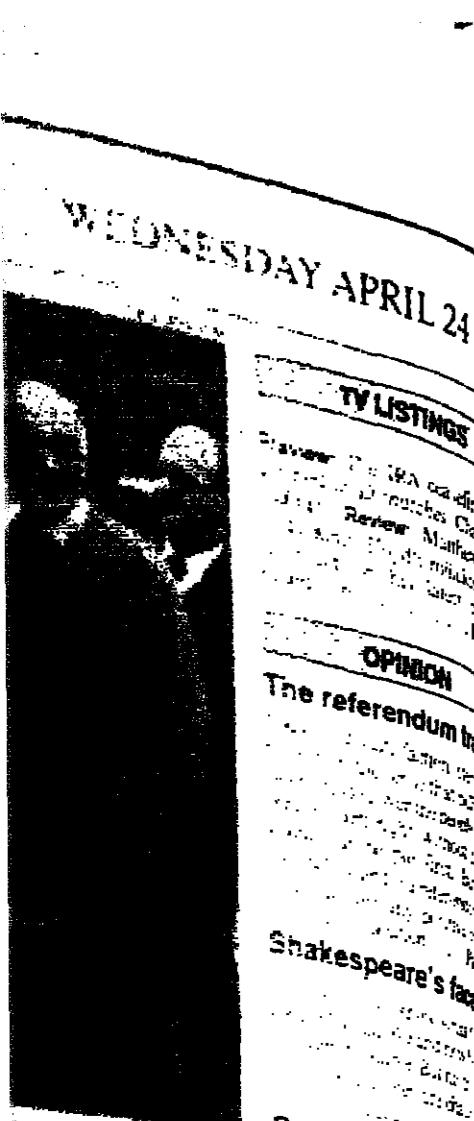
■ BOOKS Ben Macintyre on Allan Pinkerton, the Scot who became America's first private eye

■ THEATRE Europe needs Italy. And the French would do well to understand that if the Franco-German couple is essential to make things go forward, more than ever they need allies in the south to bring balance back to Europe. .... *Le Monde*

— Le Monde

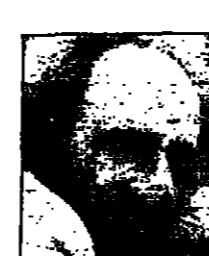
Europe needs Italy. And the French would do well to understand that if the Franco-German couple is essential to make things go forward, more than ever they need allies in the south to bring balance back to Europe. .... *Le Monde*

— Le Monde



## PROPERTY 36, 38

The stately home as a backdrop to modern design



## ARTS 42-44

F Murray Abraham adds Tolstoy to his family of roles



## SPORT 45-52

Fowler's instinct can serve England well

JPY 101.50

RUNNING INTO HISTORY

Marathon results 46, 47

# THE TIMES



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

## CBI gloom on industry standstill

Confidence flat but upturn expected in longer term

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders painted their gloomiest picture of the state of UK industry yesterday when they said that manufacturing activity had failed to pick up and was now at a standstill, while business confidence was continuing to fall.

The findings of the latest quarterly industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, rested mainly on persistently excessive stock levels and were worse than the City had been forecasting. Although manufacturers are predicting improvements, recent CBI studies have shown such expectations to be largely unfounded.

Output and total new orders remained flat in the CBI's April survey, which also showed confi-

dence dipping for the fourth successive quarterly report.

Employment in manufacturing fell at its sharpest rate for two years, but there was what CBI leaders described as an "encouraging" trend on costs, with prices increasing by less than was expected and the growth in unit costs slowing more rapidly.

Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, suggested that the longer-term prospects for the economy were still improving, with the CBI expecting an upturn in the economy later this year.

However, the CBI gave a warning that, on the basis of the

survey, interest rates should neither be cut nor raised. While they accepted that many manufacturers might well welcome a further cut in rates to help their own economic positions, the confederation suggested that most companies knew that a further rate cut would not help the economy overall, and so should be avoided.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank and of the CBI's economic affairs committee, acknowledged: "We are experiencing a period of static manufacturing activity, reflected by flat orders, particularly in export markets that have been the backbone of recovery

over the past few years." However, he insisted that beyond manufacturing, other evidence from retailing and the financial services sector, for instance, suggested that the economy as a whole was now performing better than it had been.

Among the main findings of the CBI survey were:

■ Output: Total output fell back from a net balance of companies reporting an increase set against those recording a fall — of 6 per cent in the last survey to zero now, the lowest since October 1993. Fourteen per cent net of manufacturers expect output to rise.

■ Orders: Total new orders also

stood at zero, marginally up from -1, with domestic demand up slightly at 3 per cent, though exports were also flat.

■ Stocks: The CBI said that stocks had built up as a result of the slowdown in demand, and that the currently high level of stocks "pose a risk to the strength of economic growth over the rest of the year unless they are run down quickly". Such a high stock overhang may dampen manufacturers' ability to expand output if demand rises.

■ Jobs: Employment in manufacturing fell over the past four months at the sharpest rate since April 1994. Questioned on the

scepticism expressed privately by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, about the Government's own figures suggesting a continuing growth in manufacturing jobs, which was revealed in a leaked internal Whitehall document yesterday, CBI officials would only say, diplomatically, that they expected the Government's figures to be revised in the future.

■ Confidence: Business optimism fell back again, for the fourth successive quarter, though the 3 per cent balance was a smaller fall than manufacturers had expected.

Confederation analysts suggested that reasonably firm investment intentions in plant and machinery indicated that companies remained "fairly upbeat" about prospects for the year ahead.

Tony turning point, page 32

## Delay over CINman sale could cost £50m

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Treasury and the coalminers' pension funds stand to lose at least £50 million because of the continued delay in the sale of CINman, the company that looks after the two schemes on which more than £50,000 miners and staff have a claim.

British Coal, which is in the process of selling its business operations, said yesterday that details of the future of the £1.7 billion British Coal staff scheme and the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, were being discussed with a number of interested parties and an announcement would be made "in the next few weeks".

It is understood that the purchase price being discussed between British Coal and potential CINman bidders is about £25 million, compared with the £75 million offer believed to have been tabled by Friends Provident, the UK insurer, last year. Of the £75 million, roughly two-thirds would have gone to the Treasury, with the remainder being divided between the two coalminers' scheme. More

than four months have now elapsed since it was first confirmed that Friends Provident, which manages some £15 billion of funds, was in exclusive talks to buy CINman.

The UK insurer, which is now in preliminary discussions about a takeover by the Prudential, had beaten off a final rival bid by Sal Oppenheim, a German company.

The CINman talks with Friends Provident founders earlier this year on opposition from within CINman and among the trustees of the two pension schemes.

Broadly, members of the staff scheme backed the pioneer of the Stewardship ethical funds, while trustees of the miners' fund favoured Sal Oppenheim. Last month, Barry Southcott, the managing director of CINman, left abruptly.

CINVer, the highly rated venture capital arm of CINman, was sold to its management last year in a deal believed to be worth less than £5 million.

Tempus, page 30

## Harvey Nichols in huge demand

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES in Harvey Nichols, the quality Knightsbridge store that is seeking a stock market listing, have been 15 times oversubscribed at a price that values the company at £148.5 million. Institutions are being offered shares at 270p — 30p above the top end of City forecasts.

Dickson Concepts, the Hong Kong branded luxury goods group, is selling 43.6 per cent of Harvey Nichols in order to release finance for expansion.

The store's directors are forecasting a 52 per cent leap in pre-tax profits from £6 million to £9.1 million in the year to March 30. However, the tax charge is expected to leap from £50,000 to £3.3 million as the group is no longer able to utilise losses incurred in earlier years. Sales are forecast to rise from £77.5

million to £90.1 million. Last month Harvey Nichols, where Joseph Wan is chief executive, said it intends to open smaller regional stores and expand into stand-alone restaurants.

Tempus, page 30

Wan: profits leap

Crest to be investigated by OFT  
By OUR CITY STAFF

CREST, the Stock Exchange's new electronic share settlement system being developed by the Bank of England, is to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said yesterday he wants to see Stock Exchange trades published immediately they are made.

He told the all-party Treasury Select Committee, currently conducting an inquiry into the future of the Stock Exchange, that he wanted to see 75 per cent of trades published immediately, 95 per cent within one hour and all trades published within 5 days.

He said it was up to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to decide eventually how trades would be published.

## Institutions back BET bid defence

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BET's defence against Rentokil has received a major boost, with three more institutions pledging their support against the £1.2 billion hostile bid.

Yesterday's declaration of support was made as Rentokil moved to spend £130 million to snap up a 6.8 per cent stake in BET. However, BET revealed that fund management groups Prudential, which holds a 5.26 per cent stake, ESWIM (2.91 per cent) and Hermes (1.57 per cent) had all undertaken not to accept the bid.

Last Friday, BET's largest shareholder, M&G, which holds 7.5 per cent of the share capital, said it would reject the takeover and heaped praise on the management skills of John Clark, chief executive. A total of 17.25 per cent has now been pledged in favour of the BET management.

Rentokil paid 202.5p a share for the stake — equivalent to the cash price of the offer. The company said that the share purchase had helped increase market confidence in the bid.

Rentokil said the support from these institutions for BET came as "no surprise". It said that the institutions involved traditionally supported incumbent management, while parts of the holding were indexed and could not be said.

Civie Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said: "We remain confident of victory but not confident of victory but not

convinced of victory but not

# TUC and CBI urged to join for training

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday urged Britain's business and trade unions to join together to promote new standards of training at work.

The move by Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, came as she took the unusual step for a Conservative Cabinet minister of speaking to a union conference on training and lifetime learning. Some left-wing union leaders drew an unfavourable parallel

between Mrs Shephard's move and the current Labour Party leadership, wondering when was the last time Labour had called for a new deal between employers and unions, rather than seeking to distance itself from unions in favour of business.

In a speech to a TUC conference, Mrs Shephard was favourably received when she emphasised the importance of training to improving Britain's competitiveness, and said jobs would "inevitably" disappear as tastes, products and markets changed. She said the value of the

Government's Investors in People (IIP) initiative, a move which makes an award to organisations that have reached demanding standards of training and managing employees.

Approving both CBI and TUC statements on IIP, she called for a new partnership between the two to promote the IIP standard—a "public and practical joint programme" to stimulate employers and employees into pressing for IIP status.

She said: "Government is doing its bit. We are already putting £45 million behind IIP-related activities. I

challenge you to do yours." John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, who will today become the first TUC leader to address an annual conference of the Institute of Directors, immediately accepted the challenge, and said he would contact the CBI to start establishing such a move.

Mrs Shephard also gave warning that training and skills were the only way to avoid Britain being forced to compete with other economies on the basis of low pay—a charge unions and Labour have often made against the Government. But she told the

TUC: "If we are to avoid the necessity to compete on wages, we must compete on knowledge and skills."

David Blunkett, Labour's Shadow Employment and Education Secretary, told the conference that the Government, industry, unions and individuals had to "build a partnership to revolutionise training in Britain", adding that Labour will soon announce proposals to promote its plans for individual learning accounts for young people—including the possibility of free credits for those achieving key skills.

# CBI blames national law not Europe for jobless

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

**BUSINESS** acknowledged yesterday that Europe's labour market problems stem from individual countries' employment laws and costs rather than any changes imposed by Brussels.

The statement by Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, was seized on by Labour leaders as an acknowledgement by industry that European regulation, such as the EU social chapter, is less harmful to business and jobs than the Government claims.

While the CBI leader made clear business's continuing opposition to the social chapter and to Labour's declared intent to end the UK's Maastricht Treaty opt-out from it, he struck a careful line about its impact, rejecting both the idea that the opt-out is heartless and damages British workers' employment conditions and that accepting the social chapter "would lead to an immediate and catastrophic collapse of British competitiveness". Neither view, he said, survived close analysis.

Speaking to business and Labour leaders at a conference on Labour and business earlier addressed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, Mr Turner rejected the claim that social initiatives from Brussels were responsible for the high unemployment and low job growth which characterises mainland European labour markets.

He said: "What is wrong with continental labour markets is almost entirely the product of national labour laws, and nationally imposed non-wage labour costs—not a European-level imposition." He rejected the idea—which Conservatives claim Mr Blair believes—that Britain will be able to go into the social chapter, and then "pick and

choose" which of its measures it wants to implement.

British business, he said, did not primarily oppose the social chapter because of the two measures so far introduced under it on parental leave and on European-style works councils—though he said that both were too prescriptive. Its opposition rested on the process of the social chapter, which "over time" could lead to the imposition of some of the labour market rigidities seen in some individual EU countries.

He rejected Labour's plans for a national minimum wage, insisting that there were "better ways to fight the impact of low pay" through in-work benefits and tax changes, though he welcomed Labour's changes to a "more pro-market and business-friendly tone and approach".

Laura D'Andrea Tyson, President Clinton's national economic adviser, told the Industry Forum conference—a body set up to promote links between Labour and business—that the US Administration was now pursuing a "third way" between the European model of regulated labour markets and the traditional American deregulated model.

While maintaining flexibility, Dr Tyson said the US was introducing moves to increase people's "pay cheque, employability and health and pension securities". She said it had so far produced growth forecast at about 2.5 per cent, 8.5 million new jobs since 1992—and cited a US Government study showing that two thirds of the jobs created were "good jobs" in areas of employment at above median wages.

Dr Tyson urged the UK to follow such a third way while dismissing ideas that inflation was dead.



Bill Wood, managing director of Cosalt, the supplier of marine and industrial safety equipment, which yesterday said first-half pre-tax profits increased to £1.11 million from £828,000. The interim dividend is 3.0p, compared with 3.25p, payable out of earnings of 6.18p a share, as against 4.48p last time. The shares fell 7p to 166p

## Railtrack flotation winning support

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE £1.8 billion flotation of Railtrack next month was given a boost yesterday when it was revealed that more than 1.4 million people have expressed an interest so far in buying shares by registering with share shops.

The sale of the company that owns Britain's rail infrastructure has attracted more interest than expected in spite of a low-key marketing campaign and a backdrop of political uncertainty. A generous package of sweeteners, including share discounts and an early dividend payment, are believed to have stimulated interest.

Potential private investors are not obliged to register with share shops to be able to participate in the flotation but will be given more attractive terms if they do. About 140,000 of the 1.4 million have been automatically registered by banks or building societies.

The registration period closes on Monday. City advisers have been surprised by the level of interest. The final tally of registrations is expected to be about 1.7 million, compared with the 3 million who registered for the second tranche sale of the electricity generation companies last year.

Mini prospectuses and application forms will be sent out to those who have registered in the second week in May and completed application forms must be in by May 15. The flotation is on May 20.

Investors can opt for a 15p discount off the price of shares held until the second instalment, up to a maximum of 120 discount on 800 shares, or choose to receive one bonus share for every 15 shares up to a maximum of 80 free shares. The public will also receive a discount compared with the price to be paid by the financial institutions.

Ministers announced last week that shareholders would receive a dividend on their shares for the financial year ending March 1996, worth a total of £69 million.

Pennington, page 29

## NatWest drive to keep down costs

NATWEST, the banking group, yesterday advised that it would continue to drive down costs, but said that it believed the economic outlook for the UK was for "slow but steady" growth. Lord Alexander of Weecon, the chairman, speaking at the group's annual meeting, said the growth in the amount of loans being agreed would be steady, but not spectacular. The bank made profits of £1.75 billion in 1995, a 10 per cent increase on the previous year, and a 12-fold improvement on the £134 million it made five years ago.

"Obviously this reflects in part the changing economic climate. We have come through a deep recession into a period of slow but steady growth," said Lord Alexander to shareholders. "But it reflects even more the professional way in which we are managing our business. We have a clear strategy, developed after careful thought, and after learning from the tough experiences for the banking industry over recent years." Lord Alexander warned shareholders that the bank planned to cut the ratio of its costs to its income by 10 per cent by the end of the century although he did not say whether this would lead to job cuts.

## Closed societies

MORE building societies are barring their doors to outsiders. The Cheshire, the 19th largest society, is one of the latest to impose a £2,500 minimum investment limit to repel speculators from other regions. The Ipswich, ranked number 46, has also restricted its accounts to customers from four East Anglian postcodes: IP (Ipswich), CO (Colchester), NR (Norwich) and CB (Cambridge). Some 24 small to medium-sized societies are now open to local residents only.

## Rothschild defection

NM ROTHSCHILD has suffered a serious defection with the resignation of Michael Phair, who headed up privatisation work in Eastern Europe and other emerging markets. Mr Phair is to join UBS, where he will jointly head up the Swiss bank's telecommunications group alongside Michael Lehmann. His departure is a serious blow to Rothschild, which sees its role as adviser to governments in emerging markets on the privatisation of state-owned assets. A spokesman for UBS said the bank regarded telecommunications as a key area to develop.

## Trade teams stand by

EUROPEAN UNION member states will decide tomorrow whether to call an emergency meeting of trade ministers in Geneva next week. EU sources said the committee of EU ambassadors would take the decision at tomorrow's regular weekly meeting. The emergency session would probably take place on Monday afternoon, just before the April 30 deadline for tying up the deal to open up world telecommunications networks under the unfinished business from the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

## PIA names candidates

THE Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for firms selling direct to the public, yesterday announced the candidates to fill the boardroom places vacated by three practitioner directors whose term of office expires in July. Of the three names put forward by the PIA only Nicolas Conyers, a partner in a Leeds firm of independent advisers, is a newcomer—to replace the retiring Tony Gordon. Peter Gray, chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Society, and Kevin McBrien of NPI, the insurer, are up for re-election.

## Alexandra beats slide

ALEXANDRA WORKWEAR, the office and factory uniform supplier, shrugged off deteriorating market conditions to increase pre-tax profits 23 per cent to £5.3 million in 1995. The total dividend rises to 6.5p a share from 6p, with a 4p final. Earnings rose 23 per cent to 10.3p a share. The expanding overseas sector brought in 9 per cent of the company's turnover. European sales grew by 20 per cent to £5.4 million. UK retail sales grew by 7 per cent to £10.8 million, and UK specialist sales grew 4.5 per cent to £4.7 million.

## Volkswagen accelerates

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's largest vehicle maker whose marques span VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda, lifted net profit to DM166 million from DM13 million in the first quarter of 1996. Turnover rose by 15.4 per cent to DM24.5 billion and the number of vehicles delivered increased by 14.6 per cent to 946,915. But the company said it expected sales and turnover for the full year to rise only slightly "owing to a hardening of international competition and weak economic growth" in key markets. Net profit would be only slightly higher than the DM36 million for 1995.

## Digital profits leap 67%

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP, the US computer manufacturer, lifted profits 67 per cent to \$124 million in the third quarter, its best performance for the period in six years. Earnings were 74 cents a share, up from 44 cents previously. Third-quarter revenues were \$3.6 billion (£3.5 billion). Digital said revenues from its personal computer business were lower than expected during the third quarter, blaming a slowdown in the commercial market sector, competitive pricing pressure and higher levels of inventory in distribution channels.

## Trentham Gardens sale

TRENTHAM GARDENS, the leisure park and tourist attraction near Stoke on Trent, is for sale. British Coal, which owns the 725-acre site, is selling it as part of a large property disposal and privatisation of non-mining activities. The sale of the gardens, which include a tract designed by Capability Brown, the English landscape gardener (1716-83), could provoke some local objections, with many residents regarding the area as a virtual public amenity. It is expected to fetch around £3 million.

St Ives  
acquis  
surge

Southern  
cleared  
for bid

SOUTHERN, the US utility, which is merging with National Power, Britain's largest generator, was yesterday cleared by the Takeover Panel to make a bid before its earlier indications. Southern had said it would not make a further move until last June. The Panel, ruled on the basis of National Power and National Grid, the smaller electric and Midlands Electricity panel, said it was free to

Lonrho f

**THE TIMES 1000**  
1996

THE TIMES 1000  
1996

THE ESSENTIAL BOOK  
FOR ANYONE WHO  
NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND  
BUSINESS TODAY

Revised and updated with  
detailed five-year analysis  
and latest results

Rankings, assets, turnover,  
profits, employees, key staff

Edited by Martin Barrow  
City Business Editor  
The Times

£35

Call our 24 hour telephone ordering service 0741 772 2281  
Or return this coupon to: Mail Order Dept 926,  
HarperCollins Publishers, Westerleigh Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 2LT

Please send me  copies of THE TIMES 1000 1996 @ £35.00 + FREE P&P.  
I enclose a cheque for £  made payable to HarperCollins Publishers.  
OR please debit my Access/Visa (date where necessary)  
Card No:   
Expiry date:   
Name:   
Address:   
Postcode:   
Signature:   
Please allow 21 days for delivery. TIMES BOOKS, London

## Littlechild moves on practice codes

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TOUGHER consumer obligations on electricity companies were yesterday set in train by the industry regulator in preparation for 1998 when households will be able to shop around for electricity.

Professor Stephen Littlechild will demand stronger codes of practice for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and sick and call for public statements on service so the 25 million households may compare performance. Customers will also be protected by a standard on contract terms so they can switch contracts with reasonable flexibility and choose a payment option.

His plans come as the electricity consumers committee are working on plans to

## Rover plans for world expansion

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

ROVER is planning to launch a programme of expansion into more worldwide markets after announcing a 6 per cent increase in its world sales during the first three months of the year.

The UK car manufacturer promised a "stronger presence across South East Asia and South America" and a "more comprehensive representation in eastern Europe".

The commitment to expansion was given yesterday by John Russell, Rover's sales and marketing director, at the Turin Motor Show in Italy.

Mr Russell said that world-wide Rover sales had totalled nearly 123,000 vehicles in the first quarter of 1996, while growth in continental Europe

had risen 16 per cent. Although he would not supply full details, Mr Russell said that Rover would "be entering or re-entering with new products after years of absence—between 20 and 30 further markets around the world".

While it plans expansion abroad, Rover is looking to sell fewer, but more prestigious, vehicles in Britain as it moves upward.

Last month, BMW said Rover had incurred £150 million loss last year under German accounting conventions, while under UK methods it would have shown a £9 million profit before interest and tax—a rise of nearly 10 per cent.

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia \$	2.01	1.95
Austria Sch	17.13	16.69
Belgium Fr	2.00	2.00
Canada \$	2.167	2.007
Cyprus Cyp	0.762	0.697
Denmark Kr	9.46	8.85
Finland Mark	7.80	7.16
France Fr	2.18	2.04
Germany Dm	2.42	2.24
Greece Dr	386.00	381.00
Hong Kong \$	12.34	11.34
Ireland £	1.02	0.94
Israel Sheq	3.87	4.00
Italy Lira	245.00	230.00
Japan Yen	175.20	158.30
Malta Liri	0.683	0.588
New Zealand \$	2.35	2.14
Norway Kr	10.46	9.65
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rand	8.21	8.11
S. Africa Pta	181.00	178.00
Sweden Kr	10.77	9.97
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	1164.52	1084.52
USA \$	1.600	1.475

Rates for small denominations banknotes supported by Barclays PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at 22nd March 1996.



Van Miert: met brewers

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has reassured British brewers that it will listen to their reasons for keeping UK pubs outside European Union competition law before taking a stance on the issue.

A Commission source, who is close to Karel Van Miert, European Competition Commissioner, said that a delegation of European experts would be arranged "either before or after the summer". At issue is the renewal of rules that exempt beer distribution agreements from EU competition rules. The so-called block-exemption, which also covers petrol stations, will end at

NatWest drive to  
keep down costs

Closed societies

Rothschild defection

Trade teams stand by

PAI names candidate

McDonald's beats slide

Work rates accelerate

Digital profits leap

Fontham Gardens

iced pubs

□ Six bankers for nukes sale □ Labour's misguided assault on accountants □ Cost of any Saudi backlash

□ "BRITISH Energy: a powerful player in Britain, a growing force on world markets. Become a part of the energy industry of the 21st century. Write to this address for your prospectus..."

Waffle, waffle, waffle, and not a mention of the N word — just for one moment it could all have been thus. One or two of the bright boys in bow ties and blue spectacles bidding for the heavy advertising campaign for this summer's £2 billion-plus flotation of British Energy, which starts at the end of May, had advocated its strict abolition.

The dropping of "nuclear" from the new name for British Energy, which runs eight nuclear stations, provoked howls of amusement last year. The decision not to feature a single train in the promotion of Railtrack was equally hilarious. What further fun we could all have had with the Power Source that *David not Speak Its Name*.

Wiser counsel has prevailed, and those tempted to buy into the last privatisation for a while, if not forever, will know just what they are applying for. The wonder, as we survey the two bargain-basement sales of the summer, is that those sales will now almost certainly go ahead.

When it became apparent last

year that the Government was going ahead with the sale of the nukes and the rail network, there were enormous doubts. The former were terrifyingly dangerous, the latter deeply unpopular. What is more, the two were tied together by a timetable that required nukes to follow rail by a very short margin.

The advisers simply priced the lot to go. Railtrack is being sold with an indicated price range next Wednesday that should set the yield at above 7 per cent; British Energy ditto, probably. So BE will be a straight yield stock, throwing off cash to fund that yield from assets that are built up and running. There are not even the political concerns that bedevilled Railtrack: Labour approves of the sale because the unions, strong in the nuclear industry, accept it. Even Greenpeace thinks, quite rightly, that a float would mean the end of the nuclear building programme.

Today the syndicate of half a dozen banks to sell the shares

around the world will be announced. Their research notes will then dribble out starting in mid-May and, boy, will they ever be positive. The lead adviser, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, already stands accused of over-egging the nuclear pudding, particularly on the key issues of output, that is, what average percentage of all the plant will be up and running in future, and the direction of prices within the electricity "pool". Some in the industry are concerned that power prices short-term are set in fall, bad news for British Energy. It will be interesting to see the syndicate's conclusions.

### Brown blunders in loophole land

□ GORDON Brown's attack on tax accountants is famous. They can take it, and will doubtless claim it as a deduction. But the ranting Shadow Chancellor has missed the point. Where there is uncertainty, aggressive tax

levy. A nasty tax surprise is much more likely to happen to you than a win in the lottery, whatever a party's stated inclinations.

Labour has repeatedly stated that it will crack down hard on tax avoidance by slamming shut loopholes. Admittedly, this was mainly an uncontroversial ruse by Mr Brown to avoid talking about his real tax plans. But accountants and others would be cavalier to write this off completely.

Loopholes are the basic tools of tax advisers. As Mr Brown and other Labour speakers have often confirmed, there is rarely a clear line between a loophole and an intended tax incentive.

How about profit-related pay, or the generous rules for small firms and venture capital trusts? Occasionally, smart advisers spot and exploit foul-ups in tax law. Most "loopholes" are just abuse of intended reliefs.

Before each Budget, accountants send out action lists covering possible changes. Taxpayers who follow them blindly, without

using their nous, are fools. Those who stick their heads in the sand are likely to end up like investors in an ostrich scheme.

### Battle lines drawn in the sand

□ AT LEAST they had the grace not to blame the National Lottery. But there was immediate suspicion on the stock market that accident-prone Babcock International was taking advantage of any complete breakdown in diplomatic relations, and likewise Rolls-Royce's £200 million power station project. It is arms-sellers like Vickers, GEC and GKN that might worry.

Defence sources were last night indicating that, below the surface, it is business as usual with the House of Saud. The next clear pointer will come in June and July, when Vickers goes in to bat for 150 new battle tanks worth £500 million against an inferior French product. It may not only be the Challenger II that

is on trial in the Arabian desert this summer.

joined the board as a non-executive director on January 27 last year.

Mr Jacob's pay was determined by a partnership-related profit sharing scheme. His pension contributions included a one-off charge of £432,000. The annual report does not disclose the contribution made by Trinkaus to Midland's profit.

Keith Whitson, chief executive of Midland, saw his pay rise from £320,000 to a total of £429,000.

## A positive release of energy

PENNINGTON



### Flextech in new channel deal

FLEXTECH, the TV programming company, announced yesterday that it has formed a joint venture to launch a digital satellite channel called *Mundo Olé* in Latin America (Eric Reguly writes).

Flextech has invested £9 million for a 32.5 per cent stake in the channel. Ole Investments and HBO Ole Partners, comprised of Time Warner Entertainment, Sony Pictures Entertainment and Olé, hold the rest. *Mundo Olé* will transmit in Spanish

and Portuguese and will feature general entertainment, news and documentaries.

The digital TV market in Latin America is set for strong growth.

DirectTV International, the satellite broadcaster, has just launched a service there. The News Corporation, ultimate owner of *The Times*, has formed a partnership to start a similar service.

Digital revolution, page 31

### Midland director's £1.8m

A DIRECTOR of Midland Bank received £1.8 million in pay and pension contributions, making him the highest-paid director of a UK clearing bank (Patricia Tehan writes).

Herb Jacob, who is chairman of Trinkaus & Burkhardt, Midland's 71 per cent-owned German commercial and merchant bank, was paid £1.24 million in salary and other remuneration, and £568,000 in pension contributions. He

### Cheaper

one way

## St Ives seeks more acquisitions after surge to £19.6m

BY CARL MORTISHED

ST IVES, the printing group, is seeking acquisitions after a 25 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £19.6 million. The company, whose products range from bibles and consumer magazines to annual reports, raised sales 30 per cent but saw margins slip from 12.3 per cent to 11.8 per cent due to the effect of higher sales of direct response mailing products that increased the value of paper in the company's turnover.

St Ives' profits for the 26 weeks to January 26 include a £1.3 million contribution from Johler Druck, a German printer, specialising in magazine inserts and catalogues acquired last August for £15 million. Miles Emley, chairman, said the company continued to see acquisitions in

the commercial and direct response area, both on the Continent and in America. Mr Emley said the company had suffered from problems from installing new equipment. "We have yet to gain the full benefits of improved efficiency and productivity," he said. The company is in the final stage of a three-year £100 million investment programme to upgrade plant and he expects St Ives to spend £30 million in this financial year.

After the collapse of the Net Book Agreement, book sales increased in the UK but the magazine market was volatile due to fluctuations in pagination. Music and multimedia packaging products were buoyant, particularly in The Netherlands and the UK. St Ives financial printing busi-

nesses enjoyed a boost from the high level of takeover activity although international business was not as buoyant.

Mr Emley said the level of business had not subsided but he questioned whether activity would continue at the same rate after a change of government. "It looks a bit like a last final fling before the shutters come down," he commented.

St Ives had net cash at the end of January of £22 million and Mr Emley predicted that liquid funds would be slightly lower by the year end. The company is paying an interim dividend of 2.9p, up from 2.5p in the first half last time. Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 13.37p.

Tempus, page 30

MARTIN BEDFORD



Looking at home and abroad: Miles Emley, left, and Brian Edwards, managing director

### Southern cleared for bid

SOUTHERN Company, the US utility seeking a merger with National Power, Britain's largest generator, was yesterday cleared by the Takeover Panel to make a bid before its earlier indications (Christine Buckley writes).

Southern had said it would not make a further move until Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, ruled on the bids by National Power and PowerGen, the smaller generator, for Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity, the RECs. The panel said it was free to bid.

### Salomon flourishes in the first quarter

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

PROFITS at Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, rebounded sharply in the first three months of this year, producing the third best quarterly result in its history with net earnings of \$276 million.

Although Salomon does not split out its profits from proprietary trading — trading its own money on the financial markets — much of the increase appears to come from a substantial rise in profits from this area.

Salomon employees benefited from the strong results with remuneration costs during the quarter soaring from \$425 million to \$556 million. Global

investment banking revenues rose 53 per cent to \$181 million.

### Lonrho faces block on deal

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE European Commission is expected today to block a proposed multi-million pound link-up between Lonrho, the hotel and mining group, and Gencor, the South African mining company. The deal would create one of the world's biggest suppliers of platinum, raising monopoly fears in the European motor industry, which uses platinum in catalytic converters.

The intended merger of Impala Platinum, Gencor's

subsidiary, with Lonrho's platinum interests has been stalled since November pending the outcome of an EC inquiry. The deal has been approved by shareholders and cleared by South African competition authorities. In spite of that, commissioners are expected to bow to the motor lobby and block the merger.

A negative move by Brussels would complicate life for Lonrho, which plans to divest its mining interests. Gencor

has a 27 per cent stake in Lonrho's platinum division. Developments will be watched closely by Anglo American, Gencor's rival, which has first pick of the bulk of Lonrho's mining portfolio. Anglo American last month took an option over 18.4 per cent of Lonrho shares, lifting effective control to 28.5 per cent.

Opponents of the link-up include tribal chiefs in South Africa and Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's founder.

With Air Inter Europe, one-way is cheap, for once. With no annoying restrictions on which flight you take. In fact, these fares are substantially lower than other airlines' published fares. Prices start as low as £48, would you believe. We even do special fares for senior citizens,

students and families. One day, all airlines might offer deals this good. Until then, contact your Travel Agent, or

call us now for more details. 0181 742 6600.

New. Fast. Efficient.

AIR INTER EUROPE

## STOCK MARKET

## MICHAEL CLARK

# NP's moves distance it from Southern's grasp

THE odds on Southern Company, America's biggest utility, getting its proposed £8 billion-plus bid for National Power off the ground are growing longer by the day.

Shares of National Power fell 9p to 596p yesterday amid a growing realisation within the Square Mile that Southern may have missed its window of opportunity. National Power has not let the grass grow under its feet.

Since the American utility announced its intention of making a bid last week, the power generator has disposed of part of its generating activities to Hanson's Eastern subsidiary and on Monday outlined details of a generous agreed offer for Southern Electric, valuing the latter at £2.5 billion. By contrast, Southern Electric rose 12p to 903p.

Later this week, the Government is expected to give the go-ahead for National Power's bid for Southern and PowerGen's offer for Midland, down 6p at 41p, after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

One leading broker commented: "It seems unlikely that the Americans will make a move now. If they were to bid, it's likely to be dependent on the offer for Southern Electric being aborted".

It now remains to be seen which of the utilities Southern Company will target next. London Electric, down 11p at 844p, is seen as a possible candidate. It has linked with Houston Industries, another US utility.

The rest of the equity market continued to consolidate its position following last week's 90-point surge to new all-time high. A gloomy CBI industrial trends survey, showing business confidence remaining at a low ebb, raised hopes that there was scope for another cut in interest rates. In the event, another positive start to trading on Wall Street enabled the FT-SE 100 index to close above its low for the day. It finished 19.7 points down at 3,833.0. Turnover topped the one billion mark.

There was renewed speculation buying of Ladbrooke, with BZW said to be bidding for stock. The price firmed another 21p to 196p, with almost 12.5 million shares changing hands. Dealers still expect a bid for the company. Thorn EMI was also chased higher first thing, with the price touching 18.46 as investors



Muhammad al-Masari is denting Saudi-linked shares

tors called options in the June 19 series. Once again talk of a bid refuses to die. It ended 11p better at 183.8p.

Vodafone fell 8p to 255.1p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, lopped £30 million from its current year pre-tax profit forecast. Lex Service jumped 10p to 338p after a positive presentation to institutional investors.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

firmed 11p to 98.1p.

Rentokil stepped up the pressure on BET, its target company, by picking up shares from disaffected shareholders totalling almost 7 per cent of the company.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

number of BET shareholders. It takes Rentokil's acceptance up to 10 per cent.

Last week M&G Investment Management, BET's biggest shareholder with 7.5 per cent, threw its weight behind the board. It was joined yesterday by Prudential Portfolio Managers (5.26 per cent), and Hermes (1.57 per cent). BET, 4p better at 205.1p, continues to urge shareholders to reject terms of the £2.1 billion bid. Rentokil climbed 6.1p to 358.1p.

Full-year figures from Babcock International will carry the scars of the political bust-up between the Government and Saudi Arabia over Professor Muhammad al-Masari, the dissident.

As a result the group is forecasting pre-tax profits of only £3 million after an £18 million trading loss and an exceptional profit of £21 million. The order booking currently stands at more than £400 million.

The shares responded with a fall of 15.1p to 113p as more than ten million shares changed hands. The news from Babcock also had a knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of today's £3 billion auction of Treasury 6½ per cent 2006. London spent much of the day shadowing overseas bond markets, especially German bunds, where prices rallied after a hesitant start but failed to hold their best levels.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at 106.92 after trading in narrow limits for much of the session. A total of 47,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, there was a modest steepening of the yield curve as treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1.6 to 9.8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 gained a tick at 102.4.

□ **NEW YORK:** Oil shares rallied to put the Dow Jones industrial average ahead by midday it had added 7.23 points at 5,571.97.

Mayflower, the specialist engineer that makes the body panels for the new MG car, stood out with a jump of 42p to 112.2p on turnover of one million shares. This is in the wake of a visit by brokers to its Walter Alexander subsidiary in Scotland, which is now trading at a profit.

Full-year figures from Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans mail order retailer, made grim reading, with the group plunging into the red after making provisions totalling £223 million after extensive restructuring. Pre-tax losses totalled almost £120 million compared with a profit last year of £153 million. The only bright spot was a strong performance from Selfridges.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett and SBC Warburg, brokers, paid 202.2p each for a total of 64.6 million shares. Rentokil said it had made the move in response to requests from a

knock-on effect for other Saudi suppliers, with British Aerospace down 14p at 864p. Rolls-Royce 2p to 238.1p, GEC 3p to 335.1p, and GKN 13p to 97.9p.

Stordata Solutions, the computer software specialist, was left nursing a fall of 8p at 18p after warning the City that profits may fail to match expectations.

□

THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Tories choose local boy

THE Tories have chosen one of Britain's richest men to fight the Labour stronghold of Barnsley Central at the next general election.

Barnsley-born Paul Sykes, a Yorkshire miner's son turned property developer, who has a fortune estimated at the thick end of £220 million, owns 40 per cent of the much sought-after Meadowhall shopping centre in Sheffield.

The 52-year-old radical, who launched himself in the scrap business at the age of 17 with just £170, was one of the first big investors in the old London Docklands.

Going North

SCOTTISH accents have persuaded Tesco to relocate its customer service centre to Dundee.

The supermarket chain has given warning to 150 "Estuary English" employees, based at its headquarters in Hertfordshire, that they can either move to Dundee or the company will help them to find work elsewhere.

Forty such call centres have now opened in Scotland by firms who favour the Scottish tilt for their customers.

Riding high

CITY headhunter Jim Furlong, whose speciality is placing United States equity producers, is making up ground in his election campaign for a seat on the Racehorse Owners Association Council. The aptly named Furlong is one of ten candidates standing for election this summer but, the man who was once reported to be the highest paid United States equities sales manager in London, is confident the odds are in his favour.



Registering for shares in Railtrack is not the same as buying a ticket\*

Mandela calling

PRESIDENT Mandela has come to the rescue of a British businessman who has been trying for the past year to obtain a South African business permit. Michael McCarthy was almost packed by the time the call came from the President, who had read his letter of complaint in a local newspaper. The 41-year-old, who has spent \$50,000 rand setting up a small export business, was told to fax over the relevant paperwork to his saviour's secretary immediately.

Crystal clear

NATWEST has won over Chrissie Maher, director of the Plain English Campaign, who awarded the bank Crystal Marks for use of plain English in its annual review.

Such is their relationship that Peter Hammonds, company secretary at NatWest, who has a letter published in today's Times, sent it first to Maher for a Crystal Mark of approval. Maher was at NatWest's annual meeting yesterday to register shareholders' responses to the bank's use of English.

"One woman was so delighted, she said she even knew where the toilets were," chuckles Maher. "I couldn't wait to get out and put my money into NatWest shares."

MORAG PRESTON

# Europe moves closer to the edge of a digital revolution

Eric Reguly looks to decode the latest moves in the fast-changing international television sector

The digital television revolution is about to grip Europe. The service is already available on a test basis in some cities and, within a couple of years, millions of viewers who considered four or five channels a luxury will be bombarded with hundreds of them.

The new technology may make video recorders seem quaint relics of the past. A service called *video on demand*, made possible by the enormous capacity of digital transmissions, will allow viewers to see movies when they want without having to trudge off to the local *Blockbuster*. There will be a plethora of specialty and audio channels, round-the-clock sport, pornography, cartoons and educational programming.

Media consultants say that digital TV delivered by satellite is the most lucrative new business opportunity in the media industry, and many of the biggest players in the sector are scrambling to get a piece of the action. Kevin Narain, a digital TV expert at Price Waterhouse, says: "It is the hot topic of the moment."

The high interest in the sector was signalled last week when DirectTV, the digital broadcasting company owned by the Hughes Electronics subsidiary of General Motors, made it known that it intends to launch a European service.

The competition will be formidable. DirectTV will be pitted against some of the biggest names in the industry — Kirch and Bertelsmann of Germany, CLT of Luxembourg, Havas and Canal Plus of France and BSkyB of Britain. They all have plans to supplement their analogue services with digital broadcasting and are busy forming partnerships to get there first. BSkyB, 40 per cent of which is owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, has said it could start some digital services in Britain next year.

Winning the race will take a combination of careful planning, bold moves and above all, lots of money. The partnership will have to lease transponder space on satellites, bid for content such as Hollywood movies and football; decide on which decoder technology to adopt for the set-top boxes, and put subscriber management and billing systems into place. Price Waterhouse says the costs could run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

What is the advantage of digital broadcasting? Choice, control and convenience, the industry's mantra, are the primary benefits.

A technological marvel called digital compression will make hundreds of channels available. Filling them will be the challenge. Certainly, the arrival of digital TV will trigger the development of dozens of specialty channels catering to every eccentric in the land. There will be channels for trout fishermen,



Digital TV delivered by satellite presents a lucrative opportunity

travellers, gardeners, twitchers and collectors of stamps and war memorabilia. There will also be audio-only channels, feeding jazz, blues and gospel music directly into your stereo system.

But consultants say that greater choice in the big three — movies, sport and sex — will be the real drivers of digital TV. A non-interactive service called *video on demand*, in which the same movie is beamed down separate channels at, say, 30-minute intervals, will allow viewers to see movies more or less when they want.

The possibilities in sport are endless. A subscriber could buy a package with channels devoted to American basketball or all manner of European football, such as the European Champions Cup. The more sophisticated digital set-top boxes will allow "impulse" pay-per-view purchases. Currently, pay-per-view customers must phone in their orders well before the event.

Getting it wrong could prove disastrous. Consultants estimate that such

boxes will initially cost £400 to £600 apiece. At that price, viewers will want a box that will not have to be replaced in a year if the technology changes. And unless the prices come down, or are heavily subsidised by the broadcasters or the programme providers, the success of digital TV cannot be assured.

In America, digital satellite TV is taking root at amazing speed. No fewer than four services — DirecTV, United States Satellite Broadcasting Company, Prismstar Partners and EchoStar Corporation — are either up and running or planning to launch soon.

DirecTV is the leader at the moment. Started 18 months ago by Hughes, the satellite communications and aerospace company, DirecTV has about 1.4 million subscribers and expects to double that number by the end of the year. It has 175 channels and owes much of its growth to its coverage of National Football League games. DirecTV's basic news, sports and movies package costs about \$30 a month. The satellite dish and the set-top box can add another \$700 to the bill.

In January, DirecTV received a vote of confidence when AT&T, America's biggest phone company, bought a 2.5 per cent stake for \$137.5 million, valuing it at a lofty \$5.5 billion even though no profits are in sight. AT&T has an option to boost its stake to 30 per cent over five years, depending on how many DirecTV customers it recruits.

Hughes has made international expansion a priority for DirecTV. In partnership with four South American media and telecoms companies, an offshoot called DirecTV International has just launched a 200-channel Spanish and Portuguese service called Galaxy Latin America. It will compete with a similar service started by The News Corporation, Telecommunications Inc of America, Organizaciones Globo of Brazil and Grupo Televisa of Mexico. Next year, DirecTV International plans to launch DirecTV Japan.

DirecTV International hopes to announce the formation of a European partnership in the near future. Celso Azevedo, senior vice-president, would not provide details but thinks the deep pockets of Hughes and its own track record give it a competitive advantage.

Hughes has made international expansion a priority for DirecTV. In partnership with four South American media and telecoms companies, an offshoot called DirecTV International has just launched a 200-channel Spanish and Portuguese service called Galaxy Latin America. It will compete with a similar service started by The News Corporation, Telecommunications Inc of America, Organizaciones Globo of Brazil and Grupo Televisa of Mexico. Next year, DirecTV International plans to launch DirecTV Japan.

DirecTV International does not plan to challenge BSkyB in Britain because of its commanding position in satellite broadcasting. The market in continental Europe is wide open, but it will have to move quickly. NetFid, a Dutch TV company owned by Multichoice of South Africa and Richemont, the Swiss luxury goods maker behind Dunhill and Cartier, has already started a limited digital service and has obtained the rights to Italian soccer. It wants to expand in Europe.

Meanwhile, the big German and French media players are lining up their partners and their programming rights. Bidding wars for content are inevitable. "You will see a lot of companies competing for some fairly scarce resources," Mr Narain says. "The fight for the digital TV consumer has just begun."

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Plain speaking on the clarity of NatWest's annual reports

From the Company Secretary, NatWest Group, Sir, Mr Penton, in his letter (April 18), commented on a few accounting pages in our annual review not carrying Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark.

Each year more and more of our pages are earning the Crystal Mark. This year over 80 per cent did. We hope this number will increase still further as we continue our pioneering work with Plain English Campaign. However, by law the accounting pages must contain certain technical terms and this is why the Crystal Mark does not apply to them. But we still take care to make these pages as clear as possible.

Many of the technical terms are explained in a glossary, which does carry the Crystal Mark. We wrote

to 5,000 of our shareholders asking for their opinion. They are overwhelmingly in favour of what we have done, and say using plain English is a real help. No shareholder has said they have found any difficulty in understanding the pages.

As well as the annual review, our annual meeting notice and shareholders' voting card also carry the Crystal Mark.

We are also asking our shareholders to adopt a new set of Articles which will be the first Articles ever written in plain English with the Crystal Mark. We believe this demonstrates a genuine and growing commitment to plain speaking.

Yours faithfully,

P. J. S. HAMMONDS,  
Company Secretary,  
NatWest Group, 1st Floor,  
41 Lothbury, EC2.

### Apprenticeships were hard but worth it

From Mr Gilbert Bealing, Sir, T. P. Hartley was absolutely right to extol the benefits of the apprenticeship system to individuals and the state (Return to apprenticeships, March 28).

My working-class parents sacrificed family income in order to apprentice their three sons to mechanical engineering. To further our technical education my elder brother and I, for some three years and after a hard day's slog on the shop floor, pedalled 24 miles return to the Guildhall, Bath, for two hours of evening classes. Three evenings weekly, all year round, all weathers and back to work at 7.30 next morning.

My first year's wage was four shillings weekly, in 1922, rising to 19 shillings in my fifth year. Left-wingers

would call this slave labour, but I felt privileged to be taught the groundwork of my future livelihood without a premium charge for it.

With our first employer we progressed through site installations, drawing office and to area representative positions. My brother became a managing director-chairman and I the chief sales engineer for London, both posts by invitation from our second separate companies in mechanical handling. Our non-studio middle brother became a superintendent toolmaker. The system certainly worked for us. Strangely, my main tutor at Bath was also named Hartley.

Yours faithfully,  
GILBERT BEALING,  
St Michael's Cottage,  
28 Digby,  
St Ives, Cornwall.

### Change social attitude to unemployment

From Mr A. G. Phillips, Sir, The one subject upon which the world's politicians have a consensus is the need to "cure" unemployment. Now we have Jacques Santer (EU) launches \$1.3bn aid for small business, April 11) offering \$1.3 billion to create 30,000 jobs within the community.

Employment is a means to an end, not an end in itself, and merely providing yet more goods and services which people do not want, let alone need, is sheer profligacy. Not so long ago we needed child labour and slavery was rife. In times of crisis we needed press gangs and conscription. Yet technology is taking the place not just of manual work, but tasks which require great skill.

Even the defence of the realm is being achieved with far fewer personnel. The advance of automation and computerisation is unstoppable, and pretending that we can continue to find jobs — for all those displaced is fanciful.

Unemployment is not always to be deplored. Without millions who give freely of their time, most valuable organisations such as charities, educational establishments and even hospitals would collapse. What we need is not more boring, stressful and nugatory work schemes, but a change in social attitudes to employment and an imaginative alternative to income tax as a method of financing government projects.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,  
32 Upper Street,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

## Tories arrive at a turning point over their conflicting views on employment

Government statistics on manufacturing jobs have been telling the wrong story, says Philip Bassett



Philip Bassett

William Waldegrave, left, and Ian Lang, trying to resolve "puzzle" of job discrepancies

grew by 6.2 per cent last year in the second half of the year in particular, it tailed off to 2 per cent by mid-summer, 1.6 per cent by the autumn and to 0.6 per cent in January, the last available figures.

CBI and other survey-based figures from business tell a similar story, and though manufacturers are forecasting an increase in output, such expectations have been unrealised in each quarterly CBI survey for the past year — what CBI officials call the "disappointment gap".

According to the CBI, manufacturing employment has fallen throughout the 1990s, save for October last year when the net balance of companies reporting job cuts turned to a 3 per cent positive figure. Since then the balance has plummeted, with yesterday's 14 per cent fall the sharpest for two years.

Its separate monthly estimates say the same sort of thing — 14 monthly increases, seven monthly falls, a net rise

of 5,000 (a different order of increase but a similar pattern). The quarterly Labour Force Survey, a household rather than employer-based sample, shows a rise of 112,000 in the year to last February.

Business economists have suggested that such figures are suspect, and likely to be revised — the non-LFS ones at least — to bring them into line with what business has been reporting. That process is what Mr Lang now seems to be engaged on, with his officials suggesting that "either manufacturers are extremely optimistic about future prospects or that we should expect to see employment falling over the next few months".

Officials of the CBI are running out of words to describe its recent surveys are painting: originally a "pause" in growth — before yesterday's survey officials did consider whether they could use the phrase "lengthening pause" — the CBI's reports were peppered with words like "flat", "level", "static" and "standstill".

Hardly optimistic language, and suggesting that in the case of employment in manufacturing industry, it looks like business has been right, and the Government wrong. The process of turning round on such a point is awkward and embarrassing, especially when it is paraded across newspaper front pages; but it may be that Mr Lang and his officials are listening hard to business — and suggesting that the Treasury, and the rest of the Government, do likewise, however awkward and however embarrassing.

Why endure a long, hard slog to London and the hassle of a crowded airport? KLM Royal Dutch Airlines can connect you with over 150 worldwide destinations from your local airport.

So next time you want to fly from the UK, call your travel agent and take the easy way out. With KLM.

The Reliable Airline



Equities close off their lows

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Vol	Yield	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>						
556 490	480	Abbot Laboratories	50	1	5.9 18	
625 500	490	Barlow (HP)	50	1	5.9 18	
424 382	382	Bass Suntory	50	1	5.9 18	
493 428	428	Bell & Howell	42	12	5.7 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	12	5.7 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	12	5.7 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	12	5.7 18	
202 197	197	BP Breweries	197	12	5.7 18	
208 195	195	BP Breweries	195	12	5.7 18	
<b>BANKS</b>						
3204 2749	2749	Barclays (AM)	165	15	4.5 18	
862 765	765	Barclays (AM)	765	15	4.5 18	
442 382	382	Barclays (AM)	382	15	4.5 18	
493 428	428	Barclays (AM)	428	15	4.5 18	
195 150	150	Barclays (AM)	150	15	4.5 18	
767 652	652	Barclays (AM)	652	15	4.5 18	
115 93	93	Barclays (AM)	93	15	4.5 18	
202 197	197	Barclays (AM)	197	15	4.5 18	
208 195	195	Barclays (AM)	195	15	4.5 18	
<b>BREWERY, PUBS &amp; RESTAURANTS</b>						
56 50	50	Bell & Howell	50	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>BREWERY, PUBS &amp; RESTAURANTS</b>						
56 50	50	Bell & Howell	50	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1	5.9 18	
442 382	382	Bell & Howell	382	1	5.9 18	
195 150	150	Bell & Howell	150	1	5.9 18	
767 652	652	Bell & Howell	652	1	5.9 18	
115 93	93	Bell & Howell	93	1	5.9 18	
202 197	197	Bell & Howell	197	1	5.9 18	
208 195	195	Bell & Howell	195	1	5.9 18	
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
15 10	10	Bell & Howell	10	1	5.9 18	
115 105	105	Bell & Howell	105	1		







TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 481 1986 (TRADE)

## NEW HOMES

**100%  
Full  
Value**

**FAST.  
QUICK.**

T the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

A superb development of luxury 4 bedroom detached houses from £169,950.

CALL FOR A PRIVATE VIEWING ON:  
01992 501828 (24 hour)  
Kinghurst, Hertford, Hertfordshire

**Fairclough Homes  
Come home to quality**

**SHOW HOMES OPEN  
10AM - 5.30PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

## LONDON RENTALS

A.M.A. INTERNATIONAL

Luxury flats &amp; houses for long, short &amp; medium term lettings in London areas.

0171 724 4944

AARON &amp; LEWIS Estate Agents

of Kent. Impeccable service for

lettings &amp; sales. References available.

0171 392 0171 271 244 9608

AGENTS FOR THE LEADING  
AGENTS TO RENT IN CENTRAL LONDON &  
West London 0171 736 2224

A1 Easex South Central Estate &amp; Lettings Agents. Lettings &amp; Sales. All fees requested. Call/0800 0171 569 5481.

AGENTS FOR THE LEADING  
AGENTS TO RENT IN CENTRAL LONDON &  
West London 0171 736 2224

BARRICAN, 2 bed luxury flat secure parking. Available from £175,000. Tel: 0171 385 9991 01449 690028.

BAYSWATER W2. Lux 3 bed flat + underground parking. Price £175,000. Tel: 0171 226 1745

0171 226 1745

BLOOMSBURY WC1. New residential development. 1 bed &amp; 2 bed flats. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BLOOMSBURY WC1. 2 bed uniform mews has mins to British Museum. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BLOOMSBURY WC1. 2 bed uniform mews has mins to British Museum. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST. studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226 1745

BOND ST studio over 2 bed mews in the heart of Mayfair. Tel: 0171 226

# City gets to feel good again

Christopher Warman says central London is seeing signs of recovery in demand for high-quality offices

**S**pring has brought some warmth and optimism to the property market in London. There is little more consistency to the recovery than there is in spring weather, but the findings of Jones Lang Wootton's central London offices review, covering the first quarter of the year, are encouraging.

The take-up of offices in central London during the quarter amounted to 2,290,000 million sq ft, the highest quarterly level for two years. There has been strong take-up in all three main areas — the West End, City and Docklands — with five transactions of more than 100,000 sq ft. Service-sector companies were dominant in the West End, while banking and finance was the most active sector in the City and Docklands.

Reflecting increasing optimism, Neal Scambler, City leasing partner at Jones Lang Wootton, said: "For only the second time this decade City take-up topped 100,000 sq m [1,075,000 sq ft] in successive quarters, and with take-up being replaced by new inquiries, particularly from the banking sector, the prospects



A computer-simulated impression of the controversial redevelopment at No 1 Poultry

45 a sq ft by the end of the year as a result of the level of demand and the low Grade "A" vacancy rates.

Nowhere is the new era of redevelopment better shown than in the progress of No 1 Poultry, Lord Palumbo's controversial scheme designed by the late Sir James Stirling to replace the Mappin & Webb

site in the City. After 35 years of planning and acquiring property, the scheme is being developed by Altstadtbau Ltd and is due for completion next spring. Dieter Bock, the German industrialist and chief executive of Lourho plc, has joined forces with Lord Palumbo's City Acre Property & Investment Trust to develop

sibility of his successor practice Michael Wilford & Partners) "might just be a masterpiece" — although the Prince of Wales compared it to a 1930s wireless.

The unusual design for the building, located on a triangular site, includes a geometrically shaped atrium of triangles and circles. Simon Harris of BH2, the office letting agent (Hilary Parker is the agent for the retail), said Lord Palumbo wanted a unique replacement for the Mappin & Webb site. "This is the most unusual building we have ever been involved in. It is a highly flexible building, despite its shape." The offices are expected to attract banking-based tenants and rents will be at the "market level".

Tim Carter, Altstadtbau's project director, said: "No 1 Poultry was one of the first of the post-recession development under way in the City. "The new development will offer the highest quality accommodation for tenants who wish to operate from London as one of the world's key financial markets," he said.

This is one redevelopment in London built to the highest specifications. The London First Centre, the capital's investment agency, points out that 30 per cent of London's business space has been built or refurbished to international standards in the past ten years.

## Belfast moves into the big time

THE £130 million Lanyon Place development at Laganside, Belfast — described as Northern Ireland's "premier" business address — was launched on the London property market last week.

Brian O'Connor, chairman of Ewart plc, the Lanyon Place developer, said that £80 million of the planned £130 million investment had been committed. "Belfast is becoming one of Europe's prime destinations for business development," he said.

Tim Carter, Altstadtbau's project director, said: "No 1 Poultry was one of the first of the post-recession development under way in the City. "The new development will offer the highest quality accommodation for tenants who wish to operate from London as one of the world's key financial markets," he said.

This is one redevelopment in London built to the highest specifications. The London First Centre, the capital's investment agency, points out that 30 per cent of London's business space has been built or refurbished to international standards in the past ten years.

The air-conditioned building, completed in July 1995, has been let on a 15-year lease without break clauses at more than £20 a sq ft through Fryer Gilbert & Jepps and Haslam.

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 481 1986

## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

FAX:  
0171 782 7828

**JOHN THOMAS LTD**  
HAMPSHIRE  
AVAILABLE FOR LETTING:  
Former agricultural buildings to be developed. Approx. 335 sq.m. (3,600 sq. ft.) freehold. Planning consent passed for office, workshop and ancillary use. Situated between Andover and Salisbury.  
Enquiries to 80 High Street, Winchester SO23 9AP.  
Tel: 01962 85131 (Ref. PRCs)

**ISLE OF MAN  
COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT  
POTENTIAL**  
Building with 2 ground floor shop units with excellent window frontage.  
1st floor area suitable for 1 large office suite or 2 separate offices.  
2nd floor with 4 rooms suitable for conversion to further accommodation.  
FREEHOLD £185,000  
Tel 01624 672576 or 01624 897504  
Fax 01624 898144

**WAREHOUSE/STORAGE**  
South Wales  
3000 Pallet locations available now.  
8000 pallet locations available in December. Rent from £1 per pallet stored. Archive storage also available  
Tel/Fax 01792 369328

**WATLINGTON**  
7 miles out of Kings Lynn  
3.43 acres having land with planning permission for a mix of 19 houses/ Bungalows nr Main railway line for Cambridge / London. Contact Mr P Samways  
Office 01553 810255  
Evenings 01553 810017

### NATTRASS GILES

LOCALLY AVAILABLE WAREHOUSE AND INDUSTRIAL SPACES  
ASTON DUDLEY REDDITCH OLD HILL  
MODERN SMALL UNITS PRESENTLY LETTED  
LONDON  
Ad. Regd Post and  
1,500 and 1,800 sq ft  
TO LET  
FREEHOLD

20,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

OLD HILL  
15,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

WALSALL  
10,000 sq ft on 2  
floors  
Crown  
Secure Yard  
A1000 Prestige  
TO LET OR FOR SALE

### COMMUNICATIONS P.L.C RELOCATES

Huge Quantity of Executive  
Managers and secretarial  
office furniture for sale

Including Mahogany, Rosewood, Lt.  
Oak and Cherry, boardroom tables  
from 8' to 24' long.

Reproduction and executive suites to  
match above

Appx. 200 work stations over Lt. Oak  
and grey laminate from £45 each

Large selection of storage including  
filing cabinets and roller front units  
up to 2m high.

150 Linking Screens.

Also executive, leather, VDU and  
meeting chairs

Call to view on  
0181 549 4848

**WINTER & CO**  
FREE MAYFAIR  
SELECTION OF  
OFFICE SUITES  
FROM 1,000  
FACILITY  
INCLUSIVE  
RENTAL  
FLEXIBLE TERMS  
0171 629 7080

**HELPLINE 0800 61 44 76**  
+ FREE PHONE  
**SOSA**  
**SERVICE  
OFFICE  
SPECIALISTS**  
YOUR IDEAL OFFICE NOW!  
IMPARTIAL ADVICE  
TODAY!

**HOLIDAY COMPLEX**  
NORTH YORKSHIRE TOURIST  
VILLAGE  
4 Apartments, owners 2 bedroom  
accommodation, 3 Scandinavian style  
timber chalets. 2.5 acre site with activities,  
high standard.  
Freehold price and further details from:  
CE Rawling & Co  
01653 600078

**KINGS LYNN  
NORFOLK**  
Unique opportunity for the discerning investor  
with interest in a  
over potential. Quality  
Factory / Office Unit on  
Industrial Estate near  
Town Centre, 5,000 sq.  
ft. quality built, highly  
specified. Occupied by  
blue chip company as a  
residential  
John A. Brothers Ltd  
01553 810255

(up to means that the property will divide)

LAND OFFICES  
GRADELEY HEATH SCUNTHORPE HALESOWEN WALSALL

5.5 Acres Approx. 5.14 Acres  
Grove Lane Upper close to  
for B1 or B2  
use  
FREEHOLD

TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

72,250 sq ft  
10 offices  
Town Centre  
TO LET

## South Wales



Land at rear of Meyer Street, Thomastown, Mid Glamorgan.

British Coal is offering for sale by private treaty a varied Portfolio of 233 properties. The Portfolio includes, in 6 lots, land, which may have potential for development, commercial property, residential property and other miscellaneous properties.

Offers are invited for the Portfolio as a whole or in six separate lots.

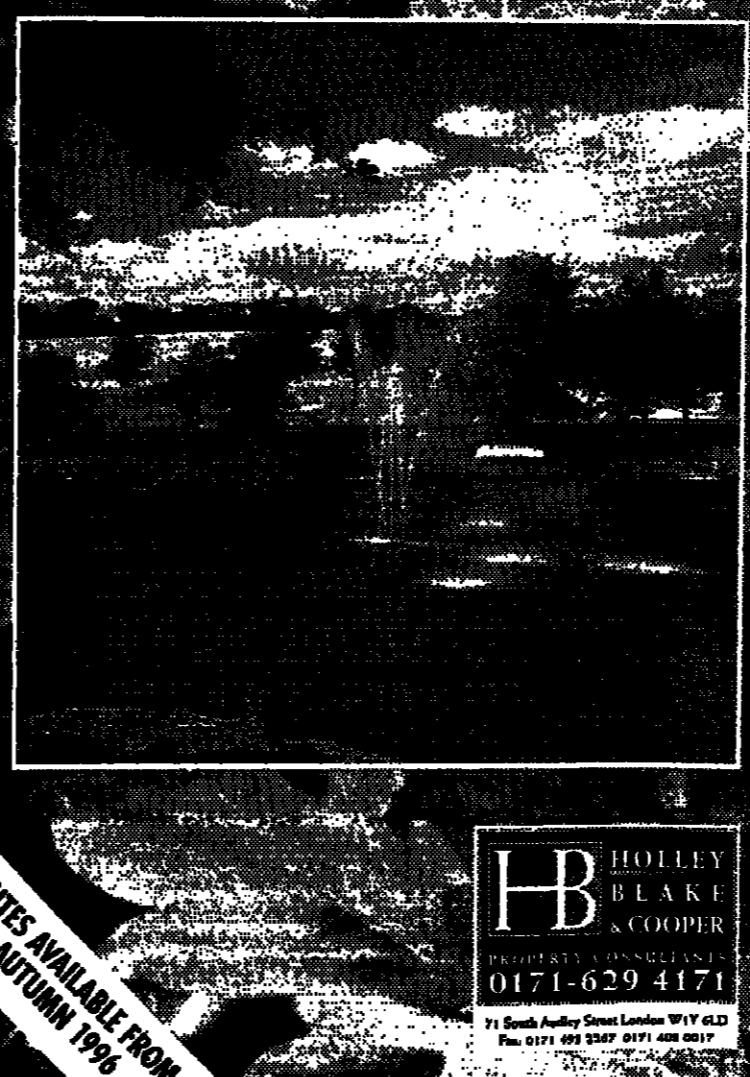
Further particulars are available from the sole agents:

**DTZ Debenham Thorpe**  
Marchmount House  
Dumfries Place  
Cardiff CF1 2RJ  
Tel: 01222 398182  
Fax: 01222 395379

Contact: Philip Yapp or Adam Hyman.

Closing date for offers 12 noon, 14 June 1996.

Development sites  
now being serviced  
in a brand new  
Enterprise Zone



### Sherwood Park NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Outstanding development  
opportunities are being  
created at our exciting new  
Corporate Park adjacent to  
Junction 27, M1.

In a mature, parkland setting,  
Sherwood Park is a 55 hectare  
(135 acre) masterplanned  
environment to cater for up  
to 140,000 sq.m. (1.5 million  
sq.ft.) of office, research,  
industrial and distribution uses.

In addition to the excellent  
communication links and  
quality of landscaping,  
Enterprise Zone benefits offer  
100% capital allowances on  
eligible costs, a 10 year  
exemption from business  
rates and a simplified  
planning regime.

For an information pack  
and further details, contact:



ENGLISH  
PARTNERSHIPS

David Cockroft, Estates Manager,  
Osiers Office Park, Braunstone,  
Leicester LE3 2DX.  
Tel: 0116 282 8400.  
Fax: 0116 282 8440.

**Debenham  
Thorpe**  
International Property Advice

**BRITISH  
COAL**

The Brewers and Licensed Retailers

British brewers say the "property tie" — this will now happen in June.

MARKE  
T MOVES  
Belfast moves  
into the big time

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 680 6806

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

### Personnel Assistant to £22,000 + B Bens

Outstanding career opportunity for a quick thinking administrator/secretary with a go getting attitude and a flair for detail. You will be highly numerate, literate and organised, have a flair for technology and a desire for progression. 50wpm typing. A levels, age 23-30.

### Personnel PA to £24,000 + B Bens

Positive, forward thinking PA with professionalism and a great sense of humour needed to work 1:1 with a high profile boss. Incredibly varied workload, high degree of autonomy, hard work for big rewards. Age 25-35, skills 90/50, international company background. Please call Karen Levine on 0171 390 7000.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants

### Swedish Success c £19,000

We currently have THREE top level secretarial positions needing fluent Swedish. Whether you want to work for a Chairman & MD in property in the West End, for a Director in a large consumer in Hayes or for a Senior Manager in Investment Banking in the City, then we can help. Must have solid secretarial skills & experience, including MS Office & audiotyping. Please call Jennifer, Benedicta or Fiona on 0171 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants

### Secretary to the Director c.16,000 + bens

An experienced, professional secretary is required to support international fundraising Director. You must have excellent organisation, communication and secretarial skills and be able to work on your own initiative. Your responsibilities will include overseas travel arrangements and liaison with international benefactors. A good educational background and computer literacy are required. Shorthand essential. The charity will shortly be moving to newly refurbished offices in the Victoria / St. James's Park area.

Please write enclosing a curriculum vitae to Kirstie Knott, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE. Tel: 0171 259 5588 / Fax 0171 259 6626.

### BANKING SECRETARY £15-17K PLUS BENS

We have two potential positions within a prestigious investment bank based in the City. These are ideal opportunities for dynamic secretaries with excellent skills (60/90) who want to work in a fast moving environment and use their initiative. Please call Maggie Cooks.

### TRAINING COURSE ADMINISTRATOR £17-20K

A fabulous opportunity has arisen within a financial training company. Duties include presentations on powerpoint, continuous client liaison and all course administration. If you have a thorough knowledge of Powerpoint (programmer helpful), dynamic typing and outstanding organisational skills, please apply now.

For senior PA, TEMPORARY applications please call Jim Williams.

A division of Grahams Appointments

### Office Manager/Team Secretary

Salary c.£20,000K plus benefits  
An experienced, energetic and committed Office Manager/ Secretary is needed for the IT division of a large financial institution. You will be supporting 5 to 7 members of the senior management team and responsibilities will include:

- Attending meetings/ taking notes
- Preparing reports and presentation materials
- Answering phones/ taking messages
- Making travel arrangements
- General office administration

We are looking for a highly motivated and proactive team player who will not only manage the team but become an active part of it. You should be PC literate and proficient in Microsoft Office applications, most importantly Word 6.0, Excel 5.0 and Powerpoint 4.0. Flexibility with e-mail packages is an advantage. Essential are strong planning and organisational skills as well as highly developed communication and 'people' skills. In addition, you must be flexible in work assignments and able to work long hours when necessary.

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter highlighting the identified key skills to Box No 554. Closing date for applications is 3 May 1996.

**ACME**  
Appointments

### ORGANISE THE TEAM £18,000

A newly created role in a young successful team who design and tailor software packages for a sophisticated City market. You will be their lynch pin, organising the 'crash' admin, monitoring the budgets, invoicing, liaison with clients, helping to set up presentations. Typing required.

Tel: 0171 377 9923 Fax: 0171 375 2948

### ACME Appointments

### DIRECTOR'S P.A.

£20,000

A true professional is sought to support a highly successful City Broking Director. Working closely with him he will delegate and rely upon you to take complete control of his diary, overseas trip arrangements, liaison with clients - in fact everything which makes his day run smoothly within this high profile International company. Shorthand is required together with Am Pro for Windows.

Tel: 0171 377 9923 Fax: 0171 375 2948

### SALES SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR - LONDON AREA

SMG Areas Management, the world leader in facilities management, has a vacancy for a Sales Support Administrator in the Conference and Exhibitions Sales Department of The London Areas. Reporting to the Sales Manager, this role will involve secretarial support, database management, tele-marketing and customer contact in a light pressure working environment.

If you have the necessary skills and experience for this vacancy please send your CV and salary requirements by Tuesday 14 May to:

The Sales Manager, London Areas, Limehouse, London E14 9TH

### PA to MD c.£20,000 Victoria

A national insurance company is seeking a Personal Assistant to the Managing Director. The ideal candidate should have a high energy level, be flexible, have the ability to draft own correspondence and have an eye for detail. Ideally a background in insurance would be advantageous. Knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1 Dos is required. If you have an interest to join this friendly company please call Julie Gainsborough-Waring on 0171 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants

### HR PA Hammersmith £20,000 +++

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join a prestigious multi-national as personal assistant to their HR Director. This is a challenging role requiring a proactive, professional and efficient communicator who can keep one step ahead. Good skills (80/50) and computer literacy. Educated to degree level. Age 25-35. Please call Elizabeth Wood on 0171 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS!**  
£20K TEMP TO PERM  
If you enjoy working on your own initiative & want to use your organisational skills then join this small & friendly S/Ed based company as their Office Manager. S/Ed, Flexibility & good secretarial skills also required. Please call Anne-Marie Alonso at Tate Apartments on 0171 468 5425

*Tate*

**Private Home**  
£20,000  
Very much a Personal Assistant role where you will be involved in all areas. Chairman's business and personal life. You will be alone in his home and must therefore be able to cope with the quiet times. You will also be expected to travel and socialise in the evenings. Previous exp. as Director level. Age 26-40  
Call: 0171 493 2886

HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

**Sport**  
£16,000  
A genuine opportunity to develop your career in marketing & to take the lead placed on the two Exec's when you would be assisting. There is a lot of people contact, you will liaise with sponsors & also with printers regarding press conferences. Audio & Windows experience needed. Typing 35wpm  
Call: 0171 493 2886

**EXPERIENCED  
LEGAL  
SECRETARY**  
Required by City law firm for a personal injury litigation partner. Salary according to age and experience  
Apply in writing in the first instance, enclosing CV to Box No 5169

### DEREK LOVEJOY PARTNERSHIP DESIGN TEAM SECRETARIES

International firm of Landscape Architects urgently requires two talented and highly motivated Design Team Secretaries to join our expanding London Office. Salaries negotiable. Duties will include general administration, reception, telephone, data entry and excellent word processing skills (MS Word 6.0), acting as the interface between our UK and overseas clients. Directors and design staff.

Applications in writing with C.V. to 30th April to:

The Practice Manager,  
Derek Lovejoy Partnership,  
8-11 Denbigh Mews, London SW1V 2HQ.

Derek Lovejoy Partnership is an equal opportunities employer.

### MAY & STEPHENS

#### Born Organiser Needed! Snr. Director's PA, £20,000

A confident, experienced organiser with expert organisational and administrative skills sought for a demanding 1-1 role within a leading City finance group. Acting as a true business partner to a charming Director, responsible for all aspects of his office, including his personal diary, telephone, fax, e-mail, strong social skills coming into full play for confidential interface with top clients. Age mid 30s - late 30s. Shorth 80-90 wpm reqd.

Tel: 0171 488 9922 Fax: 0171 702 3331

**City Recruitment**

### UNHAPPY WITH YOUR BONUS

#### This Bank Cannot Be Beaten On Benefits

Why not find out more about a top Merchant Bank which realises the importance of its secretaries. Excellent opportunities in a variety of departments - let us be your passport to success.

#### LATE NIGHT REGISTRATION - OPEN UNTIL 9PM.

Thursday 25 April 1996.

Call now for an appointment.

### PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

### TEMP YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES  
For first class long and short term assignments, including temp to perm situations, Pan European should be your first port of call.

#### IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (Min 60wpm)

• Director's Secretary (Chemical) - 1 month

• Junior Secretary (Holding Co) - Indef

• Managing Director's Secretary (Oil) - Indef

#### IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (Min 60wpm)

• Director's Secretary (Consortium) - Temp to Perm

• Team Secretary (Asset Management) - 3 months

• Team Secretary (IT) - Indef

If you have good shorthand and audio skills, are aged between 20-40 years old and have good working knowledge of Windows packages:

Please call us on  
0171-734 8484  
Fax 0171 734 8501

### Excellent Pay

Why not come and find out about the exciting opportunities available at Manpower.

In return for your excellent secretarial skills we can offer you a choice of the latest positions and an unbeatable benefits package. We also offer free cross training to help keep you up to date with all the latest software. For a friendly and professional approach call in and see us today at:

Manpower PLC, 1 Pudding Lane, London EC3R 8AB.  
Alternatively telephone us immediately on 0171 929 5284 for an appointment.

**WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 1996**

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING  
BETWEEN 10 AM - 6 PM?**

**LOOKING FOR WORK?**

**Excellent  
Pay**

**Holiday  
Pay**

**Full  
Benefits  
Package**

**Why not come and find out about the exciting opportunities available at Manpower.**

**In return for your excellent secretarial skills we can offer you a choice of the latest positions and an unbeatable benefits package. We also offer free cross training to help keep you up to date with all the latest software. For a friendly and professional approach call in and see us today at:**

**Manpower PLC, 1 Pudding Lane, London EC3R 8AB.**

**Alternatively telephone us immediately on 0171 929 5284 for an appointment.**

**MANPOWER**

**There's more for you**

**Executive Secretary/PA to Chairman - Bahrain**

**Salary Neg.+ package inc accom/car**

**An exciting career opportunity has arisen for a highly organised, mature PA within an international multidisciplinary organisation.**

**The ideal candidate will possess the following:**

- Capable of co-ordinating international travel arrangements
- Educated to A level with formal secretarial qualifications
- An excellent command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate using the latest WP software
- Smart appearance with good communication skills
- Without commitments and free to travel globally.

**For further information contact Jacqui Hester**

**Tel: 0171 493 2927 Fax: 0171 493 1522**

**WHAT CHARMERS!**

**London EC3**

**£20,000 plus Mortgage Subsidy etc**

**Enjoy the prestige of belonging to this sophisticated banking arm that involve themselves in venture capital and private equity. You will be working with people who will depend upon your organisational skills to run their busy day. Share in their exciting world and allow them to appreciate your true support. With shorthand and preferably some City experience call Marie-Therese Feoley on 0171 851 6626.**

### PA/SEC TO CHAIRMAN & COMPANY SECRETARY

**£25k neg. - West London**

**Our client, a renowned international Pic, seeks an experienced and confident PA of graduate calibre.**

**Essential criteria:**

- 5 years + Board-level experience
- A good business awareness
- A strong team member
- Proactive and flexible approach
- Able to prioritise + meet deadlines
- First class communication skills
- Windows literate + shorthand

**Please fax your CV to Jan Teager**

**Fax: 0181-847 5208 Tel: 0181-568 5516**

**JANETTE TEAGER & ASSOCIATES**

**Human Resource Management Consultants**

### PA/SECRETARY

**Bi-lingual English/Spanish or French**

**£20k neg. - West London**

**This leading organisation requires a graduate calibre, team-oriented PA to work for its European Director and his team. A proactive, motivated and confident individual with business acumen, strong organisational skills, Windows literate and with a good command of spoken Spanish or French.**

**Please fax your CV to Jan Teager**

**Fax: 0181-847 5208 Tel: 0181-568 5516**

**PERSONNEL  
PARTNERSHIP**

£22,000

Booking the company's temporary secretaries and keeping ongoing assessments on their work is a major responsibility of this role, demanding your assertive person to person and persuasive skills. Secretarial support to a dynamic personnel executive will involve you in the day to day exigencies of a hectic personnel department. Personnel and partnership experience preferred. 60wpm+ Windows. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**GO FOR BROKE!**

£23,000 + BENEFITS

This senior fund manager needs a right hand secretary to become involved in his role on the stock market. If you have a finance related degree, real interest in the financial markets and want to use your secretarial skills on a 1:1 basis, you can provide true support to this board level gentleman. Typing 60wpm, MS Office useful. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**INTERNATIONAL HR**

£20,000 + PACKAGE

This top international company based in the West End are recruiting a senior level secretary to work for their HR Manager. If you have real pride in your ability to provide 1st class support, succeed in a dynamic environment and thrive in a team, you will find yourself in a motivating role using all of your skills. Typing 60wpm, good education and secretarial course essential. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**PUBLISHING**

£22,000 + BONUS/BENEFITS

A demanding role providing the Managing Director with full secretarial and administrative support. Based in Mayfair offices you will liaise on an international level organising meetings and conferences. Huge potential for an excellent communicator who has the ability to prioritise tasks and manage them to tight deadlines. Word for Windows essential. Powerpoint, Excel and shorthand useful. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**ENTREPRENEUR**

£18,000 NEG

Extremely varied role, including organising personal life, working for the Managing Director of this family run business with diverse interests including property, fashion and antiques. You must be flexible, team orientated and possess effective organisational skills with the ability to handle own projects. 80/50 skills. Age 25-35. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**MAINE-TUCKER  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**
**BEGIN AT THE  
BEGINNING...**

£22,000 + PENS + MED + MORE

Working with one of the new people at the top. The Director of Corporate Affairs. He will need a true manager to help build a strong team. You will be involved in developing a new business unit, 80-90 staff. Workload will be 50-60% office involvement and 40% progression. This is a fantastic role for someone with 20+ years of experience. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 8HJ  
Telephone 0171 734 1341 Facsimile 0171 734 1342
**PA TO HEAD OF BANKING**  
to £23,000 + superb benefits package

Enjoy the challenge and involvement of providing high-quality support to main Board. One of well-established City merchant bank. Working in a fast-paced atmosphere and worldwide acquisition searches. A sharp brain and thoroughly professional approach keep him on top of a demanding workload and he is keen to delegate.

Can you flawlessly coordinate an action packed diary, handle correspondence, arrange a heavy travel schedule and liaise at senior level? Operate proactively, anticipating his business and professional needs to ensure he is well informed and well equipped? Draft minutes and documents, handle some research and project progression?

If so, rewards are good, including mortgage subsidy, PRP bonus, Health Care, Non-Executive position and subsidised restaurant. You will need relevant experience in a banking environment, excellent secretarial skills, including shorthand and strong Windows WP ability.

Contact consultant Jane Morgan for a confidential chat or fax/post your CV.

**■LOVE+TATE■**  
Phone: 0171-256 6668 Fax: 0171-256 7273  
Wardour Court, 29 Throgmorton Street, London EC2

**Investment Banks**

£9-£10 per hour

International Investment Banks in summing offices have a constant need for experienced temporary secretaries and PAs. Benefits include excellent rates often with overtime, constant work, first class facilities and a wide variety of interesting positions. One week you may be working for the Chairman, the next it could be for a fresh-faced trainee on a busy trading floor. Whether you work, the situation is a constant and fast moving, with a real involvement.

We need secretaries with excellent WP skills, a positive, hard working approach and the speed to keep up with the pace. Please telephone our City Temp Desk for an immediate interview. Don't forget, as a Crone Corkill temp you also collect AIR MILES awards as you work.

0171-390 7000

**Crone Corkill**

Temporary Recruitment

**£18,000+  
Paid Travel & Benefits  
Marketing**

High profile marketing division of this leading West London drinks company seeks a confident, outgoing secretary who enjoys being relied on by a busy team of young executives. This demanding role requires flexibility, excellent admin & interpersonal skills as well as an in-depth knowledge of Powerpoint. 60+ typing.

**RECRUITMENT  
COMPANY**  
0171-831-1220 5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AP

**KOMPASS  
RECRUITMENT**

Come and visit us at the London Secretary Show, Upper Hall, Stand 155, Barbican Centre, EC2.

30th April - 2nd May.

FREE insight into Windows 95.

Psychometric Testing, and much more.

Also meet our consultants in an informal atmosphere.

City: 0171 600 8091 W/End: 0171 437 8890

The Legal Aid Board exists to make sure that everyone eligible has access to high quality legal representation and assistance. Our busy Legal Department provides expert advice, represents the Board in legal proceedings and deals with complaints and enquiries about the legal aid scheme.

We work in a demanding environment where efficient professional secretarial support is absolutely vital. If you can meet tight deadlines without compromising standards, come and join a friendly team at our London Head Office.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT  
£217K**

This new position will support two managers - primarily the Legal Director - as well as providing help wherever it is most needed. As the team's most senior secretary, you'll assist in allocating and processing work, support and guide staff and maintain departmental records as well as assuming all the usual PA duties such as word processing, handling enquiries, minuting meetings and maintaining a diary.

At least two years' experience in a senior secretarial role will have polished your first class communication skills and made you used to assessing priorities. Confident, outgoing and capable, you'll present a positive image to people at all levels.

**Secretaries  
£215K**

You'll provide back up to legal staff across the department: producing reports and letters using a windows word processing package, fielding telephone calls and arranging appointments.

Typing speeds of 50 wpm minimum will be essential and you'll be able to deal politely with the public as well as internal staff. We'll also expect you to organise your own workload and use your initiative.



If you can help a quality organisation provide a vital service, contact us now for an information pack on 0171 813 1000 Extension 8546.

A QUALITY SERVICE Approved by The Legal Aid Board. We aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

**GO FOR BROKE!**

£23,000 + BENEFITS

This senior fund manager needs a right hand secretary to become involved in his role on the stock market. If you have a finance related degree, real interest in the financial markets and want to use your secretarial skills on a 1:1 basis, you can provide true support to this board level gentleman. Typing 60wpm, MS Office useful. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**INTERNATIONAL HR**

£20,000 + PACKAGE

This top international company based in the West End are recruiting a senior level secretary to work for their HR Manager. If you have real pride in your ability to provide 1st class support, succeed in a dynamic environment and thrive in a team, you will find yourself in a motivating role using all of your skills. Typing 60wpm, good education and secretarial course essential. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**PUBLISHING**

£22,000 + BONUS/BENEFITS

A demanding role providing the Managing Director with full secretarial and administrative support. Based in Mayfair offices you will liaise on an international level organising meetings and conferences. Huge potential for an excellent communicator who has the ability to prioritise tasks and manage them to tight deadlines. Word for Windows essential. Powerpoint, Excel and shorthand useful. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**DYNAMIC PA**

£24,000

A small but highly prestigious investment bank is looking for a self motivated PA, ideally with 2-3 years' financial experience. You will work as part of a close knit team with two young dynamic Partners, so strong interpersonal skills are essential. As a focal point of communication in the company you will be liaisoning with clients, assisting with presentations and juggling a range of tasks, to a forward thinking attitude and excellent attention to detail, are important. This is an exciting and pressured role that offers plenty of scope for future development.

Please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcomed.
**FINANCIAL PA**

£29,000 Package

One of two founding members of this ultra financial boutique is looking for a self-motivated PA, to provide him with comprehensive and confidential backup. You will have had experience of banking at the most senior levels. Your poise and professionalism will ensure you ideally represent the company both in person and on the phone. Your organisational ability will enable you to take complex travel and diary arrangements in your stride. An eye for detail and an insistence on only the highest quality and attention to detail is a must. You will work for two dynamic Partners who are highly regarded and those who work to them. The team is fast moving. Word for Windows, Excel and powerpoint are all essential.

Please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcomed.
**ENTREPRENEUR**

£18,000 NEG

Extremely varied role, including organising personal life, working for the Managing Director of this family run business with diverse interests including property, fashion and antiques. You must be flexible, team orientated and possess effective organisational skills with the ability to handle own projects. 80/50 skills. Age 25-35. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/Secretary to Finance Director

£20k neg plus bonus

You will be based in Mayfair and involved in the rapid expansion of a recently formed pic in the waste management sector. Highly organised, presentable and always willing to help. Strong communication, W4W and spreadsheet skills are a pre-requisite.

CVs to David Metcalfe, 9 Hill Street

London W1X 7FB

**BACK FROM THE ALPS**

Bright, cheery, personality with a professional touch. We are looking for a PA to the Managing Director of this family run business with diverse interests including property, fashion and antiques. You must be flexible, team orientated and possess effective organisational skills with the ability to handle own projects. 80/50 skills. Age 25-35. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Salaries from £12,000 to the late £20k.

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621

For the job that will suit you temp or perm ring

Angela Mortimer

Phone (rec cons) 0171 824 6621





Self moves  
the big time

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

43



■ CHOICE 1  
Anthony Rolfe Johnson stars in the ENO's staging of *Fidelio*  
VENUE: Tonight at the Coliseum



■ CHOICE 2  
West End previews begin for Felicity Kendal in *Mind Millie For Me*  
VENUE: Tonight at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket

## THE TIMES ARTS



■ YOUNG ART  
From workshop to work experience: how the Actors Touring Company gives students a crack at the stage



■ MUSICALS  
Who will be the next Andrew Lloyd Webber? A new award, courtesy of the Danish, is aiming to find out

### LONDON

**FIDELIO** Graham Vick returns to the Coliseum to direct the English National Opera in David Pountney's new translation of Beethoven's thrilling, suspense-filled opera. The title role is sung by Rolfe Johnson, and the villain of the piece, Don Pizarro, is played by Peter Skidmore (tonight) and Keith Jameson (tonight). *Hicks* is the conductor. *Carillon*, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-580 2222). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then in rep until June 6.

**BARBERSHOP DOUBLE** Opening night at The Pit for a successful run of *The Devil Is an Ass*, Ben Jonson's adventure of a junior devil in a sleepy London who soon finds he is far from the Devil. *Barbershop Double*, Barbican Hall (0171-635 8891). Tonight, 7pm; mat. Thu, Sat, 2pm in rep with *The Rosepe* (0171-635 8891). *MIND MILLIE FOR ME* Latest version of Puccini's classic farce *La Cocombra* (of Amleto, Rigoletto, La Bohème) in a cast that includes Felicity Kendal, Neil Pearson and Nicholas de Prevest. *Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1* (0171-960 2600). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Opens May 7, 7pm.

**CHAPTER TWO** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unloved New Yorkers whining towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy *Not for Sale*. *Shakespeare Avenue, W1* (0171-480 2222). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm. Mat. Sun, 8pm. Sat, 8pm.

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, pony-rough-handing of the Bard. *Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1* (0171-380 2222). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Mat. Thurs, 8pm. Sat, 8pm. Sun, 4pm.

**THE DESERTED HOUSEWIFE** The American actress and director Mike Nichols makes his British debut in Wallace Shawn's new play, which opens here tonight. *Miranda*. *Richard III*, Swan Theatre, London (0171-222 2222). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm. Mat. Sun, 8pm. Sat, 8pm.

**LA DOLCE VITA** New David Glass production, derived from the *Fellini* film that inspired it, to the words of a paper-and-puzzles drama. *Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6* (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. 2.30pm. Until Apr 27.

### TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mace

### ELSEWHERE

**EDINBURGH** Scottish Chamber Orchestra performs the premiere of Hallé Hallgrímsson's *Concerto*, the second in a series, inspired by George Johnson's painting of the same name. Works by Dvořák, Strauss and Mozart complete the programme. *Sakura Orame conductor, Royal Concert Hall, Edinburgh, City Hall, Caledonian, G1 (0141-227 5014)*. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**LIVERPOOL** The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's principal conductor, Lorin Maazel, joins the orchestra for Walton's son from Henry VIII's *King's Cello Concerto* (Raphael Wallfisch) and *Phantom of the Opera* (Stephen Hough). *Albert Hall, Hope Street, L1 (0151-702 7289)*. Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**SCARBOROUGH** Big event here: the *Miss Britain* new theatre, nests the old Colosseum, opens with a revised version of the only Alan Ayckbourn/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, now renamed *By*

### THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London  
■ House full, returns only  
■ Seats still available  
■ Seats at all prices

**CLUE** Spruced revival of the 20-year-old police show. *P. J. O'Brien* plays the Poirot in his prime. *Positive* re-emphasises on the night-right poring on peanut butter and jelly toasts.

**PRIDES OF WALES** Coventry Street, W1 (0171-380 2222). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 8pm. Mat. Sun, 4pm.

**ENDGAME** Alan Armstrong and Stephen Dillane play the lead roles in *King Lear* in the Royal Court's production of middle-period Beckett.

**DOOM** Warehouses, Eastern St WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until May 25.

**AT THE GATE** Theatre de Complicite's annual comedy, a special re-creation of *Robinson Crusoe*, with Kathryn Hunter as the rescued castaway trying to make

*Me Daniel*. *Fox below the story Young Vic, The Cut, SE1* (0171-926 0000). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 7.30pm. Open Sat, 2pm. Mat. Sat, 8pm. Until June 1.

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Deaky's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Estelle Morris as the pillars of society.

*Grindel, Old Vic, Panton Street, WC2 (0171-508 5088)*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm. Mat. Wed, 2.30pm. Sat, 8pm.

**SOME SUNNY DAY** Marin Shinsky's stimulating new play, set in Cairo in 1942 when the Brits are reduced to still-peeped pants, with a cast of 12, including a man who fails to change one's tie. *Spiegeltent*, Swiss Cottage Centre, W8 (0171-722 8301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 4pm.

**TRAMSPORTING** The current cult cult, *Blur*, is back, loutishly romping Edinburgh no-hoppers. *Blasé* (0171-380 2222). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 4pm.

**DEAD MAN WALKING** Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Penn on Death Row. *Drama about capital punishment*. *Director, Tim Robbins*. *Cleopatra House, 0171-498 5100*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**THEATRICAL** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**SMALL FACES** Giles and Billy MacGinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the 1960s, with John Gordon, Frances Farrow and Derry Alden. *Director, Harold Reuter*. *MGML Treadere, 0171-434 0031*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

**DEADLY** *Stephen Dillane* as an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart. *Caucus* (0171-369 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.



■ HERITAGE  
You may think they're blots on the landscape, but the gas holders of St Pancras are a Victorian triumph



■ MUSIC 1  
The LSO pairs Stravinsky and Ravel in a rewarding series with guest Michael Tilson Thomas

## THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 2  
The Hallé comes to grips with the rigorous, specialist demands of the conductor Frans Brüggen



■ MUSIC 3  
A packed Purcell Room is treated to a programme of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's favourite selections

Marcus Binney cautions 'philistine' ministers against needlessly destroying landmarks on the altar of progress

# Keeping alive gas's romantic flame

**I**magine it! Enough well-preserved elegant Doric columns to build two replicas of the Parthenon — and every single one to be dismantled and all too probably sold for scrap.

This extraordinary assemblage of classical columns stands proudly by the approach to St Pancras Station. It takes the form of three mighty circles of columns, three tiers high. These triplets form the noblest and most eye-catching monument of the great age of gas, when the industry gave light to streets and buildings all over London.

For 20 years they have been flamboyantly painted in black, red and white, the Victorian company livery, catching the eye of passengers approaching by train. Now they are to be carted ignominiously away as part of the Government's billion-pound "sweetener" to London & Continental Railways.

LCR, a consortium of Virgin, National Express, London Electricity, SG Warburg and others, have won the £3 billion contract to build, own and operate the new 270kph (168mph) Channel Tunnel rail link from Folkestone to London, with a new terminal within the existing St Pancras Station.

Let's be clear. There's no rival in the whole burgeoning world of industrial archaeology to this trio of gas holders, once the pride of the Imperial Gas Light and Coke Co. Brian Sturt, the industry's historian, says: "I've claimed many times that the St Pancras gas holders are unique and no one has ever contradicted me."

If they were in North America, in New York's fashionable cast iron district, they would be acclaimed as a triumph of 19th-century architecture. As it is they are Grade II listed and when the idea of a second Channel Tunnel terminal at St Pancras was first mooted, Union Railways (the current custodian) talked of dismantling and re-erecting them near by.

Now the Government is applying strong pressure to stop any such requirement being included in the parliamentary Bill, which will transfer St Pancras and 34 acres to Richard Branson's winning consortium. This is in sharp contrast to policy in Kent where undertakings have been given, and are being honoured, to dismantle and re-erect listed buildings in the path of the new fast link.

Sturt continues: "When gas holders were first built here in the 1820s by the canal there was no railway." That came later when the mighty Midland Railway blasted its way through the slums of north London to build a terminus eclipsing its rivals at King's Cross and Euston.

The Imperial Gas Company was left with a very restricted site. The



Gas holders overlooking the canal at King's Cross in London contribute to the industrial archaeology of the capital and provide a monument to the great age of gas

only way to increase storage capacity was to go up. Usually the lifts of a telescopic gas holder were 20-40ft high. Here they are 55ft. The second lift was added in 1880, bringing the total height to over 100ft." Building upwards, he adds, also meant digging down to create a tank 55ft deep for the holder or bell to sink into when deflated.

This was a great era of growth in the industry. In the 1860s the use of gas widened with the introduction of the water geyser in 1865, the gas cooking ring in 1867 and the gas fire with radiants in 1880.

The cylinders were erected to the design of John Kirkham, the company's chief engineer. The company minute books for 1860 credit the idea for three holders to Methven, the engineer who supervised the construction.

Philip Davies, of English Heri-

itage, says: "The St Pancras trio are a masterpiece of Victorian engineering and a spectacular London landmark. Just imagine what an architect like Sir Norman Foster or Sir Richard Rogers could do with them." As it happens, Sir Norman has designed an elegant circular Telematic Centre in the German town of Duisburg in a drum shape that would fit snugly within the colonnades.

But the sheer romantic value of the open silhouette against the sky must be safeguarded, as well as a glimpse of the ingenious winning of the rings. Where they touch, the columns — 46ft tall below and 33ft feet above — have guide rails. The silhouette is further enriched by nearly 5,000ft of lattice girders.

It has been suggested that the trio should be re-erected in the millennium exhibition site at Greenwich, where their shape would fit with the

ing land. As it happens, a perfect alternative site is close by in South Goods Way already in British Gas ownership, with a fourth listed gas frame and space for the endangered three. British Gas, whose heritage responsibilities are far smaller than public utilities such as the canals and the railways, should contribute to the cost. It is the monument to an industry that Britain pioneered. Sensitively re-erected, they could surprise and delight every foreign visitor arriving in London on the new fast track.

Sir Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, says: "They have a tremendous landscape value. Re-erecting them would be really worthwhile."

It has been suggested that the trio should be re-erected in the millennium exhibition site at Greenwich, where their shape would fit with the

theme of time and the proposed circle of 12 pavilions in a form of a clock face. But their reason for being lies at St Pancras, beside the canal and the railway, where they served as the backdrop to innumerable films of Dickensian and cockney London, including such masterpieces as *The Ladykillers*.

Cast iron is now recognised as one of the delights of 19th-century architecture. Its greatest monument, Crystal Palace, has long vanished, but all over the world, from Australia to Argentina, British cast iron is to be found in glorious abundance, revered as an ornament to streets and cities.

London needlessly has lost too many of its best landmarks on the altar of progress. Sixteenth-century Northumberland House, finer than any of the royal palaces, was demolished to gleeful cheers to

make way for a new bridge across the Thames, which was never actually built. The Coal Exchange and the Euston Arch went the same way. Temple Bar is still waiting to be rebuilt in London, 150 years after it was taken to a Herfordshire wood.

A new generation of philistine ministers must not be allowed to repeat this destruction. The cylinders must stay until they have to go, and then the money and the space must be found to re-erect them.

Branson and the other directors of LCR should heed the scathing words of the great Sir Nikolaus Pevsner on the destruction of the cast-iron Victorian Coal Exchange in 1962. "It is a tragedy, and it was unnecessary. Tragedy by stupidity always hurts double, more than tragedy by villainy as in the case of the Euston Arch."

## Natural modern master

IMAGINATIVE planning meant that the Endymion Ensemble's series of Composer's Choice Concerts was launched as part of the Harrison Birtwistle retrospective and on Friday the composer himself introduced a rich programme of music from the 1950s onwards. Though it did not offer insights into his musical thinking, it revealed few stylistic influences. That was expected. Birtwistle has never needed models for what is to him the most natural way of expression.

One influence, however, was both audible and admitted to Stockhausen's *Zeitmasse*. In spite of its rigid serialism, it has a fluidity that inspired the younger composer. Scored for five woodwind instruments, it is like a craggy, party-eroded

### Endymion Ensemble Purcell Room

musical sculpture — and seems a little dated.

Birtwistle's recent *Five Distances for Five Instruments*, scored for a more conventional wind quintet, has the humanity lacking in *Zeitmasse*. Each instrument's characteristic is brought to the surface in music of warmth and wit. Birtwistle also provided a mini-overture to the evening with the first London performance of a 10th-century birthday present for Pierre Boulez: *Hoquetus Petrus*. Two flutes and a piccolo trumpey with a *Machaut* melody in bright pulsing music.

The young composer Jane Mielnikiewicz was invited to contribute a new work, and its premiere disclosed an imaginative musical mind. Scored for an octet of strings, wind and brass, *Bernard* is a tightly structured journey of transformation and reinvention that explores quirky rhythms and dark colours.

Two pieces from the 1970s completed the programme. John Buller's *Scribener* for solo cello was dispatched with panache by Jane Salmon, but it sounds like a catalogue of empty instrumental effects. In contrast, Peter Maxwell Davies's Ave *Maris Stella* is a classic of its time.

JOHN ALLISON

### ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS: A pianist, itinerant conductor and viola player all on top form

## A lone struggle to lift spirits

LSO/Tilson Thomas  
Barbican

full of striking effects — not least the syrupy climax of the *Pas de deux* — but it was less invigorating.

Spirits were raised after the interval by Thibaudet — single-handedly, one is tempted to say. His formidable account of the Concerto for the Left Hand was full of power and excitement.

Thibaudet is a cultivated pianist, and he found every possible nuance in the concerto's delicately shaded score, from the nostalgia of the second section to the spiky syncopations that follow.

Tilson Thomas revelled in the intoxicating, sensual beauty of the *Daphnis and Chloe Suite No. 2*, and avoided its snappy rhythms and bass-heavy sonorities with panache. The *Scenes de ballet* is

JOHN ALLISON

## When smaller is clearly better

Hallé/Brüggen  
Free Trade Hall, Manchester

IT TAKES years rather than days for a standard symphony orchestra such as the Hallé to get used to a specialist conductor like Frans Brüggen. He takes the strings apart, splitting the second violins from the first and radically redistributing the others. He cuts down their numbers, changes their sound and requires on-the-beat precision without using a baton to facilitate it. Without a leader as diligent as Gina McCormick they would have had an even harder time of it.

After four years with his

modern-instrument orchestra in Stavanger, Brüggen has secured something like a period-instrument sound in the classical repertoire. After three concerts of Mozart and Haydn with the Hallé and another featuring Beethoven's *Choral* Symphony, he will have gone from Manchester to turn his attention to another British orchestra.

He will have communicated something very positive about the textural clarity which can be achieved by redeploying the forces and thinning down the line. In

Haydn's *London Symphony* and Mozart's *Jupiter* all kinds of normally obscure detail were illuminated.

The negative aspect of such

clarity is that faults such as an overloud entry in one area or another, a false note in the brass and even marginal failures in ensemble between woodwind and strings are glaringly obvious. But, as the audience clearly appreciated, with everything reduced to scale, dramatic events in scoring and harmony are restored to their full value.

Brüggen also enjoys working with Thomas Zehetmair.

This time they collaborated on

Mozart's Violin Concerto in A

in a performance which, after an edgy start from the soloist,

developed into a subtle dialogue with the orchestra.

BARRY MILLINGTON

GERALD LARNER

## Backstage passes

### THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

WHEN the curtain goes down on a play, most of the people in the audience shuffle out and go home. But not Theatre Club members — not those who go to see these three West End plays, at any rate. After the

show, they are invited to stay behind to meet members of the company and discuss the production over a glass of wine.

The first is *Mind Millie For Me*, at the Haymarket Theatre. Following his huge success with *Feydeau's An Absolute Turkey*, Peter Hall has once again turned to the undisputed genius of French farce and brought together many of the same team, including designer Gerald Scarfe. The cast includes Nicholas le Prevost, Neil Pearson and Felicity Kendal. Club members are invited to discuss the production with Hall after the performance on May 9, before meeting members of the cast. Tickets £18 (normally £24). Tel 0171-930 8800.

On May 16, the show is Neil Simon's comedy *Chapter Two*, at the Gielgud Theatre. The stars are Tom Conti and Sharon Gless. Tickets £18 (normally £24). Tel 0171-494 5590.

Finally, the show on May 21 is *Passion*, at Queen's Theatre. Michael Ball and Maria Friedman star in Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning new musical, directed by Jeremy Sams. Tickets £24 (normally £30). Tel 0171-494 5590.

### HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9873.

GLASGOW  
The Arches  
May 7-9, 13-14  
• CLUB members can buy tickets at £3.50 (normally £4-£7) for the Glasgow Mayfest production, *Blood and Water*, with music by Andy Arnold. Tel 0141-222 9736

BILLINGHAM  
Forum Theatre  
May 7-10  
• TICKETS £3 (normally £5) for *The Kidnap Game* by Tudor Gates. Tel 01642 552663

BOLTON  
Octagon Theatre  
May 17, 24  
• TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.75 to £12.50) for the Elizabethan tragedy *Edward the Second* by Christopher Marlowe. Tel 01204 522661

LEICESTER  
Haymarket Theatre  
May 4-25  
• TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50 to £14.50) for all except Saturday evening performances of Peter Nichols' outrageously comic *Private's on Parade*. Tel 0116-253 9797

CROYDON  
Warehouse Theatre  
May 12, 14-15, 17  
• TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.95 to £8.95) for Peter Moffat's bitingly funny *Long Rain*. Tel 0181-680 4060

PLYMOUTH  
Theatre Royal  
May 13-14  
• TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7) for the world premiere of *Birdy*, based on William Wharton's novel. Tel 01752 267222

WORD-PLAY  
By Philip Howard

# India omit leading batsman

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

INDIA's cricket team, which will arrive in England next week for three Tests and three one-day internationals, will not include Vinod Kambli, the dazzling left-handed batsman. Kambli, 24, who made a double century against England in Bombay — his home town — the last time that England played in India, three years ago, has been left out of the 16-man party for what are believed to be disciplinary reasons.

Gundappa Viswanath, the former Test batsman who now chairs his country's selection panel, revealed that Kambli, a colourful character who wears an earring, had not been considered for the tour, on which India will be led by Mohammad Azharuddin.

## TOUR PARTY

M Azharuddin (captain), S R Tendulkar (vice-captain), N S Sidhu, A D Jadhav, V S Pathare, S M Manekar, R S David, V Ganguly, P R Venkatesh, J Srinath, B A V Prasad, P L M Mhambrey, A Kumble, N Harsimhan, S L V Raju, S Jodhpur.

who was also the captain on their previous visit, in 1990. Sachin Tendulkar, who, on that tour, became the second-youngest man to make a Test hundred, will be vice-captain.

Kambli's place goes to Saurav Ganguly, 23, a batsman who toured Australia four winters ago but who has yet to make his Test debut.

The party includes two other players who have not played Test cricket — Paras Mhambrey, the medium-paced bowler, and Sunil Joshi, one of two slow-left-arm bowlers. There are also two leg spinners, but no off-break bowler. "None of the off

spinners came up to the mark," Viswanath said.

Kambli has obviously fallen foul of the selectors since India lost to Sri Lanka in the World Cup semi-final in Calcutta, a match that had to be abandoned when sections of the crowd rioted. The final image of that dreadful evening was of Kambli, one of the undefeated batsmen, leaving the field in tears after he was unable to prolong his innings. Clive Lloyd, the match referee, had awarded the game to Sri Lanka.

Dilip Vengsarkar, the former India captain, wrote in the Asian Age on Tuesday that he believed that Kambli, who was omitted from one-day tournaments in Singapore and Sharjah in which India have played since the World Cup, had been left out "for reasons other than cricket", and urged the selectors to bring him back.

"Kambli ... will have to mend his ways and show more commitment to the game," he wrote. "He is too talented to miss out on opportunities such as these, but then, I guess, he has only himself to blame for that."

Azharuddin's position as captain was thought to be in jeopardy after that defeat by Sri Lanka, but the selectors are not yet ready to promote Tendulkar, although most of his admirers feel that he should have had the leadership by now. Other than Tendulkar and Azharuddin, English crowds will also be glad to renew acquaintance with Kumble and Srinath, who played county cricket with distinction last season, and those capable batsmen, Sidhu and Manjrekar.



Kambli acknowledges applause after reaching 200 against England in Bombay

# Astle's defiance in vain for New Zealand

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WEST Indies completed a ten-wicket victory in the first Test match against New Zealand at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, yesterday. They were denied an innings victory only by further defiance from Nathan Astle, who completed an aggressive century, and a flourish by the New Zealand last-wicket pair of Danny Morrison and Robert Kennedy. Sherwin Camp-

bell, whose long innings of 208 in the first innings was the foundation of the West Indies triumph, relished the freedom to unfurl his strokes in pursuit of a target of 29. He scored all the runs in just four overs, finishing the match with three successive fours driven off Kennedy.

New Zealand's hopes of extending the West Indies further rested on their fifth-wicket pair of Astle and Justin Vaughan, who resumed the

day at 151 for four. While Astle continued to score freely off the short-pitched bowling fed to him by West Indies, the left-handed Vaughan presented stubborn defiance.

It was his departure, for 24, with the total on 210, that opened the way for West Indies to push to victory. The former Gloucestershire all-rounder was trapped leg-before by Ian Bishop moving across his crease, bringing to an end a partnership worth

153. Astle followed swiftly, for once failing to move his feet when driving at the erratic Thompson and being held at second slip by Campbell. He batted just 3hr 34min and crashed two sixes and 22 fours off 154 balls.

The persevering Bishop and Courtney Walsh, his captain, then wrapped up the innings despite the indignity of some swiping blows struck by Morrison and Kennedy in true tailenders' fashion.

## NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

Parcs 59, N J Astle 54; J C Adams 5-17; WEST INDIES: First Innings

Parcs 195, S Chanderpaul 103

C M Spearman c Lara b Thompson

R G Twice c Lara b Walsh

S T Johnson c Campbell b Thompson

N J Astle c Campbell b Thompson

C Z Harris c Samuels b Bishop

T C Vaughan lbw b Bishop

A C Morrison c Campbell b Bishop

\*J L Adams b Bishop

D K Morrison not out

R H Kennedy c Adams b Walsh

Extras 25

Total 305

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-23, 3-48, 4-57,

5-210, 6-215, 7-219, 8-254, 9-262

BOWLING: Armatage 1-1; Bishop 2-3,

Thompson 14-17-2; Campbell 10-19-10,

6-7-4; Adams 6-12-2; Chanderpaul 3-19-0.

WEST INDIES: Second Innings

S L Campbell not out

R G Samuels not out

Total (0 wk)

29

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Queen loss

A particularly fascinating encounter, in terms of what did happen and what might have occurred, was the clash between Xie Jun, of China, the former women's world champion, and Judith Polgar that took place in the blindfold section of the Monaco tournament. Polgar is the world's highest ranked female player. The fact that Xie Jun is unaccustomed to playing without sight accounts for the error on move 17 that resulted in her losing her queen.

Instead of blundering away her queen, Xie Jun had a fascinating alternative on move 17 (see diagram). She could have played 17. Qd7 Qxd7; 18. Bxb7; Kxh7; 19. Rxd7 with advantage to White. Black's best defence is 17. Qd7 Qc6 (threatening checkmate); 18. Qxc6 Bxc6; though, even now, 19. Bf5 gives White a small edge. A missed opportunity indeed.

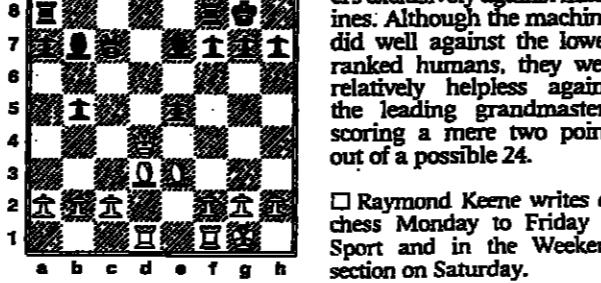
### Men beat machines

The human grandmasters dominated the top places in the annual Aegon Man v Machine international tournament in The Hague. First prize, with six out of six, was taken by grandmaster Yasser Seirawan, the former United States champion, while John van der Wiel, of Holland, and Rafael Vaganian, of Armenia, shared second place with 5½. Jon Speelman, the London grandmaster, secured fourth place with five points while the highest placed computer was QUEST, programmed by the team of Franz Morsch and Cock de Gorter, which scored 4½.

The format of the tournament pitted human players exclusively against machines. Although the machines did well against the lower-ranked humans, they were relatively helpless against the leading grandmasters, scoring a mere two points out of a possible 24.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

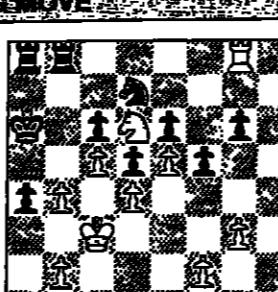
### Diagram of final position



### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Alekhine — Chajes, Carlsbad, 1923. Alekhine has been attempting to invade his opponent's position with his rooks, but it looks as if Black may be holding the balance. How did Alekhine demonstrate that this was not the case?



Solution, page 50

# Look elsewhere for examples to follow

With a famous decision that says more about my colleagues' instinct for a story than for sport, the Football Writers' Association (FWA) guaranteed itself instant controversy and therefore many column miles by voting Eric Cantona its player of the year.

On footballing grounds, Les Ferdinand would have been a more obvious choice, though, if it was essential to have a Manchester United player and no doubt it was.

Peter Schmeichel has been the principal difference between the Uniteds of Manchester and Newcastle in recent weeks.

When in doubt, though, go for the big story. Now, we can all debate the most famous possible questions. I say that the vote should not have gone to Cantona because he is not a good role model for children. I mean, the sages of Fleet Street now tell us that it is perfectly all right to kick Crystal Palace supporters so long as you say sorry. What kind of message is that for the youth of Great Britain?

One that has absolutely zero effect, obviously. Children do not actually need Her Majesty's press to tell them that Cantona is cool. They can tell that from his collar. No, really, I mean, it is a great message to send out, because it is about forgiveness and rehabilitation and amending your life. The man has been to hell and back. It sends out the message that reform is always possible, and that the repentant sinner is sure of a double welcome.

As for me, I am not a member of the FWA or anything else for that matter and, besides, when I hear the words "role model", I reach for my revolver. I have the same reaction to the word "image". These are advertisers' words, PR words, marketing words, and they are not about moral worth, they are about money.

A nice juxtaposition as I read the papers yesterday morning: apparently, Greg Norman has been receiving lots of messages of support. "So many are about how Greg was such a perfect role model for how to handle adversity."

## MIDWEEK VIEW



**SIMON BARNES**

them? As a child, even into early teens, you do not want to be like somebody; you want to be them, and so you are. We have all scored the winning goal in the FA Cup Final; we have all given the world a twain with a power chord and a primal scream.

So, am I now an amalgam of John and George and Hank, my models? Not really. I am closer to being an amalgam of Mr and the late Mrs Barnes; that is how life actually works. Charles Barkley, the basketball player, has often said that he is not a role model — "I've known drug-dealers who can slam-dunk a basketball." Parents, he says, are society's real role models, not athletes.

Yet there is pressure on a top sportsperson to be a role model. Role models sell products. Parents want their children to be high-achieving, wealthy, squeaky clean and pre-established. On the same side as their parents, in short. By acting thus, however hypocritically, you win the big endorsements. Martina Navratilova, an anti-establishment lesbian, won no substantial endorsements despite being the best tennis player in the world. The world beat a path to the door of Jennifer Capriati, instead.

Role model, you see — much good it did her. However, record companies make their fortunes by selling such reverse role models as Skin. Sports goods companies have also worked out that rebellious types are hated by parents — and that is the royal road to being considered cool by children — and they have spending power. So Eric sells sports shoes as well as anyone these days.

Perhaps the concept of role model is becoming outdated — a sales gimmick that has had its day. It is high time that the notion was chucked out of sport altogether. Athletes are not here to give us moral guidance; they are here to enthrall us with their own terms — and they both ended up as shadows of their former selves.

But role models — meaning that I strived, consciously or unconsciously, to be like

# Sky tv emergency installation



Buy before 5pm  
Friday 26th April to guarantee  
seeing all the crucial games  
in the hottest title race ever

**SKY**  
NO TURNING BACK

**phone 0990 123 123**  
Pace Apollo 120 Satellite System  
only **£89.99\***  
including 60cm mesh dish, delivered  
direct to your door at £89.99  
plus standard installation at £49.99\*

\*All items subject to availability and subject to simultaneous taking out a subscription at time of purchase to both Movie Channels and Sky Sports for a period of 12 months at £24.99 per month. Standard installation only. Extra equipment and/or extra labour may be required to fit a dish in a small change will be made. A one-off connection fee of £10 is payable with your first subscription payment. Some areas may require an 80cm mesh dish, available for an extra £20. Offer not available to previous or existing subscribers. Subscribers must be 18 years or over, eligible subject to status. Full details of subscription from Sky Subscribers Services Ltd, PO Box 43, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7DD. All information correct at time of going to press, April '96. All prices include VAT and are subject to change.

<http://www.sky.co.uk>

### WORD CHALLENGE

By Philip Howard

- BIBULUS
- a. A drunkard
- b. A workaholic
- c. A flowering shrub
- GUDULE
- a. A saint with a lamp
- b. Happy Christmas in Lapland
- c. A root nodule

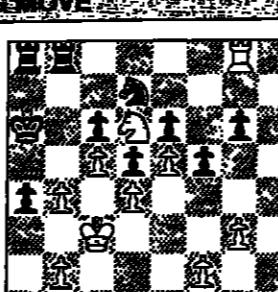
- SACCO BENEDETTO
- a. A vintage port
- b. A convict's gown
- c. A papal vestment
- CARBONADO
- a. A portable cannon
- b. A copy or transcript
- c. Barbecue

Answers on page 50

### WORD CHALLENGE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Alekhine — Chajes, Carlsbad, 1923. Alekhine has been attempting to invade his opponent's position with his rooks, but it looks as if Black may be holding the balance. How did Alekhine demonstrate that this was not the case?



Solution, page 50





FLORA LONDON MARATHON



When the going got tough for this athlete on Sunday, there was help at hand to pick him up and send him on his way to the finish. Photograph: Adrian Brooks



# LONDON MARATHON 1996

**1996**  
Reviews



gangsters  
repare  
chance  
make  
ir names

Okesola to  
box for  
Britain in  
Atlanta

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

RACING 49

# •Stoute tests strength for classic fray

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

**T**HE recent Craven and Greenham fixtures proved pivotal to the classic ambitions of Henry Cecil, John Gosden and David Loder but one Newmarket trainer whose aspirations remain intact is Michael Stoute. All that changes over the next few days when the stable unleashes some of its better talent.

Stoute has concentrated his early-season assault on the two-day Sandown meeting. Soviet Line returns to eight furlongs in the Sandown Mile on Friday; Singspiel and Double Leaf turn out respectively in the Gordon Richards Stakes and Classic Trial the following day. In between, Dance Sequence, the forgotten horse of the 1,000 Guineas, has a searching workout in advance of her date on the Rowley Mile.

A spate of withdrawals has seen Dance Sequence slip quietly into classic contention. She boasts solid juvenile form but perhaps the most intriguing factor is that the Mr Prospector filly, bred to appreciate a mile, has yet to race beyond six furlongs. She just struggled to be competitive at six-furlong pace in group one company.

"We wanted to try her over seven furlongs last season but basically ran out of options," Stoute said yesterday. "Although that opportunity presented itself via the Nell Gwyn Stakes last week, Stoute preferred to give her more time."

"Dance Sequence has been very backward. She has taken time to blossom but I'm getting quite encouraged by her recent work," the trainer said. "She just needs to progress some more over the next week. Her gallop on Saturday is therefore very important."

Overall, Stoute declares himself short of quality three-

year-olds. "We have some dependable types but we lack a little class. I don't think we have any stars although one or two of the older horses could make the grade," he said.

If there is a Derby candidate at Freemason Lodge, it will be Double Leaf. The son of Sadler's Wells reappears in competitive company on Saturday and his trainer is pleased with his condition. "If he fails to make his mark it won't be on the grounds of fitness," Stoute said.

"He won nicely first time out and I thought he just wobbled a bit when he came off the bridle at Ascot after that. The softer ground might have found him out but his run on Saturday will tell us the time of day. There's just a question mark over whether he'll stay 12 furlongs but I have a good feel about him."

If Double Leaf appears Stoute's most promising colt in the 10-12 furlong range, Singspiel carries the torch among the older horses. His spirit survived some searching examinations last term, when he came out on the wrong end of four photo finishes — two in group one company. "Singspiel could be top class this year," Stoute said. "He was only just beaten by the likes of Halling and Penitire so in that sense he does not have to progress much."

Singspiel rounded off a strenuous season when restoring his confidence in lesser company at Doncaster. His campaign commences at Sandown on Saturday, when Stoute, four times the champion trainer, will largely discover whether he is to be competitive in the best company. It may be a long season but Stoute recognises that the seeds must be sown early on.

# Klairon Davis confirms Cheltenham mastery

FROM ALAN LEE  
AT PUNCHESTOWN

**T**HE Irish conqueror Cheltenham in impressive numbers this year but they are in no mood to return the hospitality. The first day of the Punchestown Festival featured a majestic reprise from the champion two-mile steeplechaser Klairon Davis, and a deflating eclipse of the British raiding party.

There was no Viking Flagship in his way here, but otherwise Klairon Davis once more took on and defeated the fastest chasers of his generation. He won the BMW Handicap Chase by ten lengths, eased down by Francis Woods, and when asked if this is the best horse he has trained, Arthur Moore replied: "Isn't he the best most people have trained?"

"Every time he's been right, he has won," Moore said, his naturally truthful expression relaxing into a slow, sweet smile. "He is a fantastic horse, because he is only seven but has already won 14 races."

Few of the 14 have been gained more assertively than this and once Klairon Davis had left his principal rival, Sound Man, trailing with an astounding leap at the third last, the result was not in doubt.

The winner could even survive his only mistake, two from home, without giving Woods cause for more than momentary concern. "When he hit that fence I thought 'damn it, it'll be hard work now,'" Woods said. "But he picked up again for me. The soft ground was in his favour. He travels so well on it."



Dance Beat profits from the falls of Bolino Boy, far side, and Ashwell Boy at the last in the Country Pride Champion Novices' Hurdle yesterday

All, indeed, had looked to be in the champion's favour, especially with four of his seven opponents out of the handicap. But some were not convinced. David Lloyd once more left behind his tennis duties to watch Sound Man run and, before the race, said of his horse: "They say he won't like the ground but I don't believe that any more. I think horses are just like tennis players — they do it if they are in the mood."

Thousands in the crowd

agreed and Sound Man was backed down to favouritism. He travelled easily until taking up the running six from home but could not cope when Klairon Davis changed gear, and only just held off Opera Hat for second. Nakir, in fourth, was the best of the British trio, of whom Coulton fell at the first and Sound Reveille was pulled up.

Despite a fleeting temptation to run him in France, yesterday's prize is likely to end Klairon Davis's season.

He has won at two consecutive Cheltenham Festivals and he will be back next spring. But Moore will not be deterred from returning to Aintree too, despite the disappointment behind Viking Flagship last month. "I wouldn't be afraid to go back. I think it was travelling over twice in a fortnight that beat him."

Only in Ireland, and at this cheerfully informal Festival, could a major race day begin with a hunter chase and

agreed with a three-mile race over bank fences. Yet Punchestown is an increasing lure to British trainers keen for a final substantial pay day of the season.

Dance Beat, trained by

Jessica Harrington, was left to win comfortably and the British day did not improve. Super Coin was a well beaten third in the Bradstock Insurance Novices' Chase and Andros Prince occupied the same position in the Berkeley Court Handicap Chase, won by another of Moore's inmates, Professor Strong.

## RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

### Pontefract

Going: good

1. 200 (5f 11in). CAPTAIN CARAT (C West: 13-2). R. Moore 20. 2. 200 (5f 11in). My Chivalry (16-1). H. Moore 20. 3. 200 (5f 11in). PEGASUS (14-1). J. Moore 20. 4. 200 (5f 11in). N.R. SMITH (11-1). Mrs J. Moore 20. Total: £520. 1st £130, £100. 2nd £100. 3rd £70. DF: £100. 4th £100. 5th £70. 6th £70. 7th £70. DF: £100. 8th £100. 9th £100. 10th £100. 11th £100. 12th £100. 13th £100. 14th £100. 15th £100. 16th £100. 17th £100. 18th £100. 19th £100. 20th £100. 21st £100. 22nd £100. 23rd £100. 24th £100. 25th £100. 26th £100. 27th £100. 28th £100. 29th £100. 30th £100. 31st £100. 32nd £100. 33rd £100. 34th £100. 35th £100. 36th £100. 37th £100. 38th £100. 39th £100. 40th £100. 41st £100. 42nd £100. 43rd £100. 44th £100. 45th £100. 46th £100. 47th £100. 48th £100. 49th £100. 50th £100. 51st £100. 52nd £100. 53rd £100. 54th £100. 55th £100. 56th £100. 57th £100. 58th £100. 59th £100. 60th £100. 61st £100. 62nd £100. 63rd £100. 64th £100. 65th £100. 66th £100. 67th £100. 68th £100. 69th £100. 70th £100. 71st £100. 72nd £100. 73rd £100. 74th £100. 75th £100. 76th £100. 77th £100. 78th £100. 79th £100. 80th £100. 81st £100. 82nd £100. 83rd £100. 84th £100. 85th £100. 86th £100. 87th £100. 88th £100. 89th £100. 90th £100. 91st £100. 92nd £100. 93rd £100. 94th £100. 95th £100. 96th £100. 97th £100. 98th £100. 99th £100. 100th £100. 101st £100. 102nd £100. 103rd £100. 104th £100. 105th £100. 106th £100. 107th £100. 108th £100. 109th £100. 110th £100. 111th £100. 112th £100. 113th £100. 114th £100. 115th £100. 116th £100. 117th £100. 118th £100. 119th £100. 120th £100. 121st £100. 122nd £100. 123rd £100. 124th £100. 125th £100. 126th £100. 127th £100. 128th £100. 129th £100. 130th £100. 131st £100. 132nd £100. 133rd £100. 134th £100. 135th £100. 136th £100. 137th £100. 138th £100. 139th £100. 140th £100. 141st £100. 142nd £100. 143rd £100. 144th £100. 145th £100. 146th £100. 147th £100. 148th £100. 149th £100. 150th £100. 151st £100. 152nd £100. 153rd £100. 154th £100. 155th £100. 156th £100. 157th £100. 158th £100. 159th £100. 160th £100. 161st £100. 162nd £100. 163rd £100. 164th £100. 165th £100. 166th £100. 167th £100. 168th £100. 169th £100. 170th £100. 171st £100. 172nd £100. 173rd £100. 174th £100. 175th £100. 176th £100. 177th £100. 178th £100. 179th £100. 180th £100. 181st £100. 182nd £100. 183rd £100. 184th £100. 185th £100. 186th £100. 187th £100. 188th £100. 189th £100. 190th £100. 191st £100. 192nd £100. 193rd £100. 194th £100. 195th £100. 196th £100. 197th £100. 198th £100. 199th £100. 200th £100. 201st £100. 202nd £100. 203rd £100. 204th £100. 205th £100. 206th £100. 207th £100. 208th £100. 209th £100. 210th £100. 211th £100. 212th £100. 213th £100. 214th £100. 215th £100. 216th £100. 217th £100. 218th £100. 219th £100. 220th £100. 221st £100. 222nd £100. 223rd £100. 224th £100. 225th £100. 226th £100. 227th £100. 228th £100. 229th £100. 230th £100. 231st £100. 232nd £100. 233rd £100. 234th £100. 235th £100. 236th £100. 237th £100. 238th £100. 239th £100. 240th £100. 241st £100. 242nd £100. 243rd £100. 244th £100. 245th £100. 246th £100. 247th £100. 248th £100. 249th £100. 250th £100. 251st £100. 252nd £100. 253rd £100. 254th £100. 255th £100. 256th £100. 257th £100. 258th £100. 259th £100. 260th £100. 261st £100. 262nd £100. 263rd £100. 264th £100. 265th £100. 266th £100. 267th £100. 268th £100. 269th £100. 270th £100. 271st £100. 272nd £100. 273rd £100. 274th £100. 275th £100. 276th £100. 277th £100. 278th £100. 279th £100. 280th £100. 281st £100. 282nd £100. 283rd £100. 284th £100. 285th £100. 286th £100. 287th £100. 288th £100. 289th £100. 290th £100. 291st £100. 292nd £100. 293rd £100. 294th £100. 295th £100. 296th £100. 297th £100. 298th £100. 299th £100. 300th £100. 301st £100. 302nd £100. 303rd £100. 304th £100. 305th £100. 306th £100. 307th £100. 308th £100. 309th £100. 310th £100. 311th £100. 312th £100. 313th £100. 314th £100. 315th £100. 316th £100. 317th £100. 318th £100. 319th £100. 320th £100. 321st £100. 322nd £100. 323rd £100. 324th £100. 325th £100. 326th £100. 327th £100. 328th £100. 329th £100. 330th £100. 331st £100. 332nd £100. 333rd £100. 334th £100. 335th £100. 336th £100. 337th £100. 338th £100. 339th £100. 340th £100. 341st £100. 342nd £100. 343rd £100. 344th £100. 345th £100. 346th £100. 347th £100. 348th £100. 349th £100. 350th £100. 351st £100. 352nd £100. 353rd £100. 354th £100. 355th £100. 356th £100. 357th £100. 358th £100. 359th £100. 360th £100. 361st £100. 362nd £100. 363rd £100. 364th £100. 365th £100. 366th £100. 367th £100. 368th £100. 369th £100. 370th £100. 371st £100. 372nd £100. 373rd £100. 374th £100. 375th £100. 376th £100. 377th £100. 378th £100. 379th £100. 380th £100. 381st £100. 382nd £100. 383rd £100. 384th £100. 385th £100. 386th £100. 387th £100. 388th £100. 389th £100. 390th £100. 391st £100. 392nd £100. 393rd £100. 394th £100. 395th £100. 396th £100. 397th £100. 398th £100. 399th £100. 400th £100. 401st £100. 402nd £100. 403rd £100. 404th £100. 405th £100. 406th £100. 407th £100. 408th £100. 409th £100. 410th £100. 411th £100. 412th £100. 413th £100. 414th £100. 415th £100. 416th £100. 417th £100. 418th £100. 419th £100. 420th £100. 421st £100. 422nd £100. 423rd £100. 424th £100. 425th £100. 426th £100. 427th £100. 428th £100. 429th £100. 430th £100. 431st £100. 432nd £100. 433rd £100. 434th £100. 435th £100. 436th £100. 437th £100. 438th £100. 439th £100. 440th £100. 441st £100. 442nd £100. 443rd £100. 444th £100. 445th £100. 446th £100. 447th £100. 448th £100. 449th £100. 450th £100. 451st £100. 452nd £100. 453rd £100. 454th £100. 455th £100. 456th £100. 457th £100. 458th £100. 459th £100. 460th £100. 461st £100. 462nd £100. 463rd £100. 464th £100. 465th £100. 466th £100. 467th £100. 468th £100. 469th £100. 470th £100. 471st £100. 472nd £100. 473rd £100. 474th £100. 475th £100. 476th £100. 477th £100. 478th £100. 479th £100. 480th £100. 481st £100. 482nd £100. 483rd £100. 484th £100. 485th £100. 486th £100. 487th £100. 488th £100. 489th £100. 490th £100. 49





## SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1996

England coach experiments with adventurous formation against Croatia

Bold Venables  
to follow  
Dutch example

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE world of football is intrigued by England. It sees their might and their power, but observers might wonder how, at Wembley Stadium tonight, England will adapt to tactics that they have ignored for almost a decade.

The quality of Robbie Fowler, whom England will blood against Croatia in their first full international, two weeks after his 21st birthday, is known, but it is also recognised that Croatia, when fully motivated, are one of the most awesome teams on the Continent.

"Croatia are a force of nature," Arrigo Sacchi, the Italy coach, said a couple of nights ago. "On their night, they have so much ability that they take the ball from you and never give it back, which is what happened to us in Palermo." Sacchi was referring to the night when Croatia went to Italy and beat the favourites for the European championship, on hostile ground, 2-1.

Make no mistake, Wembley means as much to Croatians as to almost any footballers on the Continent. It became a

And so, to England. One

**TEAMS**

ENGLAND (3-5-1-1): D Seaman (Arsenal) — G Neville (Manchester United), M Wright (Liverpool), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), D Platt (Arsenal), P Ince (Overshaw), S Brier (Middlesbrough), R Prosinecki (Barcelona), Z Bokšić (Milan), A Asanović (Hajduk Split), R Jarni (Real Betis) — D Šuker (Sevilla), A Bokšić (Lazio). Substitutes to be named

CROATIA (3-5-2): D Ledić (Croatia Zagreb) — Štrajc (Derby County), N Jarić (Overshaw), S Bišćan (Middlesbrough), N Jurićević (Fribourg), R Prosinecki (Barcelona), Z Bokšić (Milan), A Asanović (Hajduk Split), R Jarni (Real Betis) — D Šuker (Sevilla), A Bokšić (Lazio)

Wright: free role



Venables, right, keeps a close eye on Fowler, who will make his full debut, during training yesterday

mission to many of the team when, last year, the original match was scrubbed by the Football Association because of the war in the former Yugoslavia. England, one feels, would play in a dishcloth if Umbro paid them to do it.

Croatia pull on a shirt de-

signed on the national flag, in red and white squares, and they do it with the incentive of soldiers.

So when, on Monday night, their players flew in from the seven different countries in which they perform club duty, each and every one of them at once ascertained at their St Albans hotel their readiness to play. Three of them, the captain, Zvonimir Boban, Robert Prosinecki and Alen Bokšić, all struggling with late with leg injuries, hid any pain they felt yesterday to prove their capability for Wembley, and the coach, Miroslav Blažević, endorsed the players' feelings by immediately refusing an official reception at the Croatian Embassy, insisting that his men had to be fully focused, "friendly" or not.

And so, to England. One

True, Liverpool and Aston Villa have made a success this season of playing variations on the continental theme of three at the back, but Venables, as Ajax uniquely does, has chosen only one recognised central defender, Mark Wright, recalled after almost four years out of the national reckoning, and for some of those years even out of favour at Liverpool.

Wright, at 32, a proven

defender in this mobile "free"

role, is flanked to his right by Gary Neville and to his left by Stuart Pearce, players at opposite ends of the age and experience spectrum, both of them full backs required to man-mark Alen Bokšić and Davor Šuker, who are regarded as two of the most elusive and predatory strikers in the game.

Certainly, Neville has never come across such a ghosting figure as Bokšić, while Pearce, for all his 63 caps, will wrestle with something extra special in the tall, guardsman-like, dark-haired Šuker, whose international record is played 17, scored 17.

In the heart of midfield, Paul Gascoigne, having made his one-man stand in favour of Venables continuing as national coach, yesterday added a one-liner: he called on Fifa, the world governing body, to protect him from the yellow cards of Scottish referees.

His protection on the field tonight will come again from Paul Ince, with David Platt, returning as captain, adding intelligent care, it is to be hoped, to prevent Boban from running midfield.

Could this be the last opportunity, some critics ask, for

Plat? The man is 29, and there is one statistic which suggests that it is rash indeed to write him off: his 26 goals for England, in 56 internationals, are more than the accumulated total of all the rest of the squad.

The wings of England are entrusted again to the pugnacious Steve Stone, on the right, and to the effervescent, some-

times hypnotic, Steve McManaman on the left. Then the strikers: Teddy Sheringham, the sorcerer, and Fowler, the apprentice. Sheringham has foxed many people, but not Venables.

Sheringham's apparent lack of pace is more than compensated for by his quickness of mind. He is now a fixture, the withdrawn forward who cre-

ates for others. Fowler, the most natural finisher since Gary Lineker, the scorer of 84 goals in three seasons with Liverpool, said yesterday that he was surprised, at 21, to get the chance. Surprised? Šuker was 17 when he played in a World Cup, Paolo Maldini 18, and Patrick Kluivert also 18 when his goal won the European Cup final for Ajax.

"Now I know it's going to happen, I'm well proud," Fowler said. "You get people who want to be pilots and things like that, but from day one I wanted to play football, and if the chances come I'll score for England." His confidence is admirable, but let us not be too hasty tonight in comparing him to the finished product, Šuker.

Leicester, whose 22-match winning run came to an end against a World Cup XV at Twickenham on Sunday, will be without Neil Back and Andrei Kardoni. Their places at flanker and scrum-half go to Bill Drake-Lee and Jamie Hamilton.



No 764

**ACROSS**  
1 Anguish; rib of eg lamb (4)  
3 Gruesome (7)  
8 Oatmeal cake (7)  
9 100 mph (biker) (3-2)  
10 Range; brush: Sooty's friend (5)  
11 Underwater missile (7)  
13 Business team; news agency (9)  
17 Idle (esp. actor) (7)  
19 Horse-dealer (5)  
20 Person, language of S India/Sri Lanka (5)  
22 Road-transport business (7)  
23 Do the same as others (7)  
24 Cowshed (4)

**DOWN**  
1 Wrap up (2)  
2 Defi (3)  
3 Sawyer (4)  
4 Since (6)  
5 Built on sand (8)  
6 Loadsamoney (10)  
7 Range (14)  
8 Ogden (6)  
9 Southe (11)  
10 Dying (19)  
11 Dark (21)  
12 Dice (3)

**SOLUTION TO NO 763**  
ACROSS: 5 Rabble 7 Asylum 9 Priority 11 Bade 12 Paten 13 Browne 15 Invest 17 Dunned 19 Deal 20 Ordnance 22 Radish 23 Canyon

**DOWN:** 1 Wrap up 2 Defi 3 Sawyer 4 Since 5 Built on sand 6 Loadsamoney 7 Range 8 Ogden 9 Southe 10 Dying 11 Dark 12 Dice

**SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 79**  
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

**ACROSS:** 1 Overtake 5 Lato 9 Tippy 10 Orchard 11 Sputnik 12 Audit 13 Disappear 18 Lehrer 20 Transit 22 So-and-so 23 Grimey 24 Daddi 25 Offender

**DOWN:** 1 Obtuse 2 Expend 3 Try on 4 Knock spots off 6 Award 7 Sedate 8 Scrape 14 Stride 15 Rescind 16 Closed 17 Stayed 18 Hoard 21 Argue

**1st PRIZE** of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is K Orr, Cheltenham.

**2nd PRIZE** of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is C Cornish, Egham, Surrey. All flights subject to availability.

## Genius born of technical merit

David Miller likens Fowler's skills to those of goalscorers who have passed into legend

**E**ither of two qualities, usually both, separate the international player from the average: exceptional technique and character. The second is sometimes enough on its own, as with Jack Charlton, Roger Hunt, Gary Stevens, Steve Cappell or Stuart Pearce. The first seldom is.

Robbie Fowler has the first, in bundles, and seems also to have, at least with Liverpool, the second. Tonight, we may see if he can reveal both for England against Croatia.

Few players can explain their brilliance, any more than can a chess grandmaster. Stanley Matthews could not. How does anyone explain the perfection of balance that is born in them? Could Fonteyn? Understanding the necessary application of thousands of hours' practice to exploit that perfection is another matter.

Yesterday, when Fowler was selected for his first full senior match by Terry Venables, I asked him what he had practised the most while developing as a young

player with Liverpool. The answer was not evasive or rare, but predictable: "Just the ordinary things," he said. Genius is not born of practice.

Liverpool know that great football comes from doing ordinary things better than other teams do them. Within this framework, the spontaneous technique of a Fowler will naturally assert itself. Indeed it has, with 66 goals in the past two seasons.

Where Fowler, and Liverpool are fortunate, and we must hope England, too, is that he is free of nerves. His mind, and his muscles, are not twisted by tension. Jimmy Greaves suffered inner torments off the field, but on it he scored goals as simply as posting letters. Fowler is different from Greaves, but the simplicity is similar.

When Fowler says "it may be a cliché but I play each game as it comes," you believe him. The same when he says that he had not really thought about Euro '96. "I was happy to play at club level and anything else was a plus."

The secret of Fowler's goalscoring is not really a secret at all. It is technical, and in passing was mentioned by Venables yesterday. It is the closeness with which he places the non-kicking foot to the ball, enabling him to strike it, as Venables said, "so straight and true".

An example was Fowler's left-footed goal late in the FA Cup semi-final against Aston Villa, struck with exceptional power for someone relatively short and slight. Pure timing and balance.

Most people attempting to kick a football place the standing foot wide and behind, so that the ball flies high and crooked, being hit underneath and on the side. When the static foot is close, then the secret is to strike it, as Venables said, "so straight and true".

The expectation being placed on Fowler is unavoidably heavy. Football Association officials were yesterday trying to shield him without hiding him. Yet a successor to Lineker is so urgently needed, the other candidates at centre forward, Shearer, Ferdinand, Sheringham and Collymore, having scored only 11 goals between them. Hurst, a former wing half, only emerged as an England striker shortly before the World Cup during the 1966-67 season. Although Fowler is at present "reserve", all is yet possible. "That's what they're here for," Venables said meaningfully in reference to those called up because of injury to others.

"He's improved again this season," Venables said of Fowler. "He's a very cool customer and, as they say, the nearer the goal, the harder it gets. We can't compare him with Greaves, Hurst and others from the past, because we're looking at their whole careers."

Fowler's international career is just about to begin, and Croatia, viewed as potential winners of the European championship, will be as tough a test as any could be.



Law employs the balance and brilliant technique that made him the perfect striker

## BOWLS 50

WHEELCHAIRS GIVEN  
FULL RUN  
OF THE GREENS

Gloucester  
set out  
to improve  
survival  
prospects

BY DAVID HANIS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GLOUCESTER, whose unexpected triumph over Bath a fortnight ago has created such an exciting climax to rugby union's Courage Clubs Championship, will descend on Leicester this evening with every expectation of laying low the 1995 league champions.

Ten days ago, Richard Hill, Gloucester's director of coaching, considered sending a second XV to Welford Road in order to conserve the energies of his better players for the first-division relegation dog-fight with Saracens at Kingsholm on Saturday. Now, a bullish Hill says: "We have a realistic chance of beating Leicester, particularly in a midweek night match."

"We are going there with the intention of winning and, if we can do that, it will leave us free to enjoy ourselves on Saturday. Leicester are showing signs of tiredness — everyone is at the end of a hard season."

"We are not out to do anyone any favours. We are looking after our own interests and there is no question of fielding an under-strength team which would put Bath's points difference at danger. The sooner we can ensure our first-division survival, the better."

Hill's optimism will certainly reassure his former colleague at Bath, John Hall, now the league leaders' director of rugby. Bath supporters had feared an avalanche of Leicester points tonight, reducing their points difference of 85 prior to the league final on Saturday, when Bath play and Leicester conclude against Harlequins.

Hill will take a squad of 30 players to Leicester and says he will field a side "similar to that which beat Bath". He is likely to rest such players as Rob Fidler, Phil Greening, Peter Glavin and Mark Mapleton in the hope they will be fit against Saracens. The second-teamers who come in will be highly motivated, Hill added. "They have been looking forward to this chance."

Leicester, whose 22-match winning run came to an end against a World Cup XV at Twickenham on Sunday, will be without Neil Back and Andrei Kardoni. Their places at flanker and scrum-half go to Bill Drake-Lee and Jamie Hamilton.

THE TIMES  
MARATHON

PAGES 40-42

WHEELCHAIRS

First hit

TO  
glir  
hop

**The Open University**

FRENCH  
OR GERMAN

Do you want to improve your French or German for career, pleasure or both?

**DIPLOMA IN FRENCH OR GERMAN**  
The Open University's Centre for Modern Languages offers courses to help you enhance your knowledge of the language and culture of France or Germany, leading to the award of a diploma. All you need is a basic knowledge of the language you want to study.

**OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING**  
The Open University's proven method of teaching allows you the freedom to study in your own home in your own time. We supply study materials, a personal tutor and the opportunity to attend a residential weekend school.

**STUDY PACKS**  
The courses are also available as packs, enabling you to study on your own without registering as a student.

Please complete the coupon or ring the OU hotline today for a brochure giving complete course details.

Complete and send this coupon to:  
The Open University, PO Box 625 Milton Keynes MK1 7EL.  
Please send me details of your (please tick):  
 French language course  
 German language course  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

To save time call the hotline 01908 373077

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

770140 045224

TV & RADIO  
WEATHER  
CROSSWORDS